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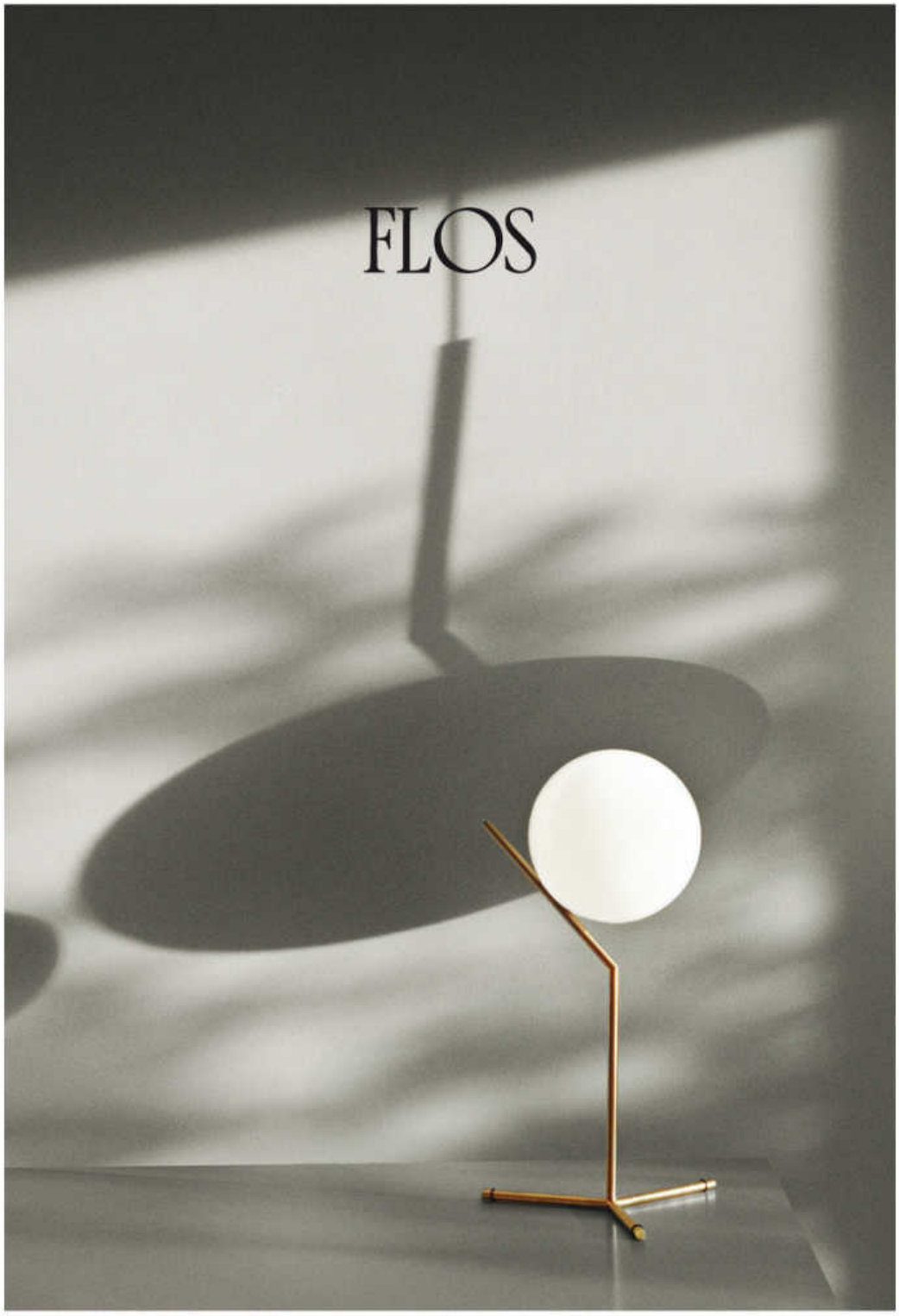


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BY MICHAEL ANASTASSIADES

2014

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ELLE DECORATION
JANUARY 2016



Solutions

39 If you do one thing this month Install a brand-new lamp to instantly transform the look of a room

40 Updates Give your furniture a facelift, improve your storage and design your own rug. Plus, essentials for the party season, from drink enhancers to bar trolleys

44 Perfect place settings Four key new looks to decorate your table



COVER IMAGE: NGOC MINH NGO/TAVERNE. COVER ILLUSTRATION: AMY DOVER (AMYDOVER.COM)

ON THE COVER

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Whether you're looking for the perfect Christmas present or a classic for your own home, this is the essential shopping edit





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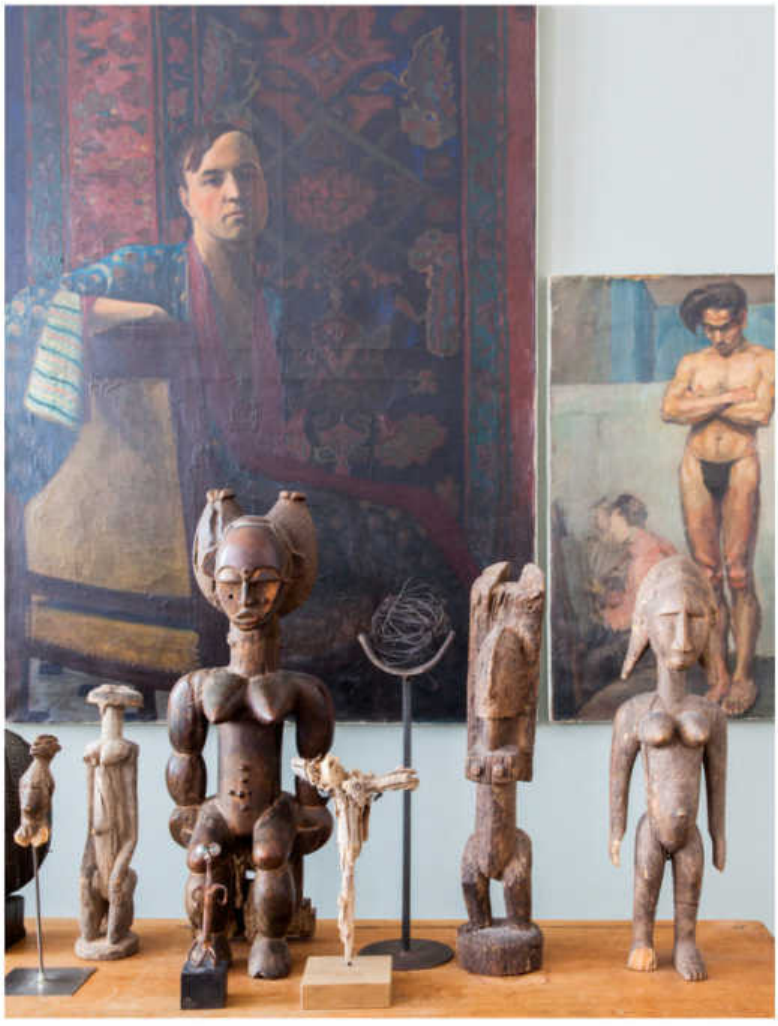
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THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS



Kerstin Rose

Profession Writer and stylist
Feature *Maker in the mill*, p96
Favourite colours Grey and green
Interiors style Comfortable and welcoming. I love glass vases, chairs and small items (like toys from the 1950s), which I arrange throughout my apartment
Favourite city I'm fascinated by cities that are not super chic and busy: I like places like Lisbon, Leipzig and parts of Brooklyn, because they still have parts that are yet to be explored
Dream buy I would love to install an open fireplace and a large seating area around it



Todd Longstaffe-Gowan

Profession Landscape architect and historian
Feature *Treasure hunters*, p118
Interiors style Eclectic, historically informed and idiosyncratic
Favourite design object The 'K2' telephone kiosk [designed by British architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1924]. A most imaginative and dignified adaptation of Sir John Soane's tomb
Design hero The Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik
Most precious possession An 18th-century marble carving depicting a recumbent Paschal lamb by the English sculptor Joseph Wilton



Stephanie Iles

Instagram: @missmutant
About Steph is ELLE Decoration's new Decorating Intern
Interiors style Lots of mid-century furniture with bohemian influences. I'd like to be more minimal, but in reality I'm too much of a collector for that
Design hero Iris Apfel, for her style and confidence
Favourite design objects Danish designer Kai Kristiansen's chairs. I have a penchant for chairs and in my opinion, these are the godfather to all!
Dream destination I'd return to a lake in Yosemite National Park, the most untouched place I've ever seen

INTERVIEWS: SARAH MORGAN PICTURE: PAOLA MORETTI

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'Just get me something small, anything you think I'd like.' Apparently these are the words that strike fear into the hearts of my nearest and dearest. They say I'm impossible to buy gifts for as I can never be specific about what I may want. I also have a very bad habit of picking up bits I suddenly realise I rather like when I'm out shopping for everyone else. You see, I generally abide by a strict principle of not looking, therefore not creating desire for things I wouldn't otherwise have known existed. But when I *do* start looking, oh what wonders abound! So many lovely things, pretty things, things I had NO IDEA I needed. Hence the corollary, my almost obsessional joy in de-cluttering.

I've long aspired to be what I call 'capsule collection woman'. In other words, this is an alternative universe in which my bathroom cabinet has only the exact essentials required for my daily ablutions.

'JUST GET ME SOMETHING SMALL, ANYTHING YOU THINK I'D LIKE.' THESE WORDS STRIKE FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF MY LOVED ONES

My wardrobe would be neatly hung with only perfectly fitting and beautifully laundered 'outfits' ready for work, rest and play – nothing superfluous, tatty or unworn. In this transcendent vision, I would waft downstairs to find no random piles of papers awaiting 'sorting', no dog hair, no neat stacks of children's toys requiring fixing or items in need of new batteries. And, the cupboard under the sink would be a supreme example of household organisation.

Sadly it is not quite thus, hence the aforementioned obsession with clutter clearing; my daily battle to keep on top of it all. But it seems to me that stuff comes *in* faster than I can recycle it *out*. And then Christmas comes along and one actively goes to great lengths to add to the accumulations. Now don't get me wrong, I am no secret hoarder, and by many standards Ogundehin HQ is pretty streamlined. Key household mantras are 'a place for everything, and everything in its place'; alongside 'clean up as you go along' (both fairly regularly adhered to).

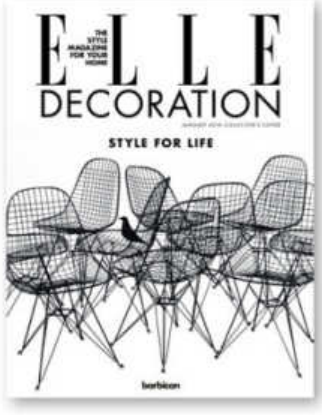
But, we Brits physically have less space at home than our European cousins (on average 85 square metres compared to 137 square metres in Denmark!), so needs must keep a tighter handle on it all. There are many 'rules' you can set yourself – 'one in, one out', 'throw something away everyday' and so on – but I think the best one is simply to buy consciously. In other words, really consider and question every purchase, for yourself and others. Do you/they need this? Are you sure you/they don't have something similar at home already? The exception to all dictats though is when you find that thing that simply makes your heart sing, in which case buy buy buy! And apologies in advance, because this issue is full of things that we at Team ED think might do just that.

Michelle Ogundehin

Editor-in-Chief

COLLECTOR'S COVER

Celebrating the 'World of Charles and Ray Eames' show and our partnership with the Barbican



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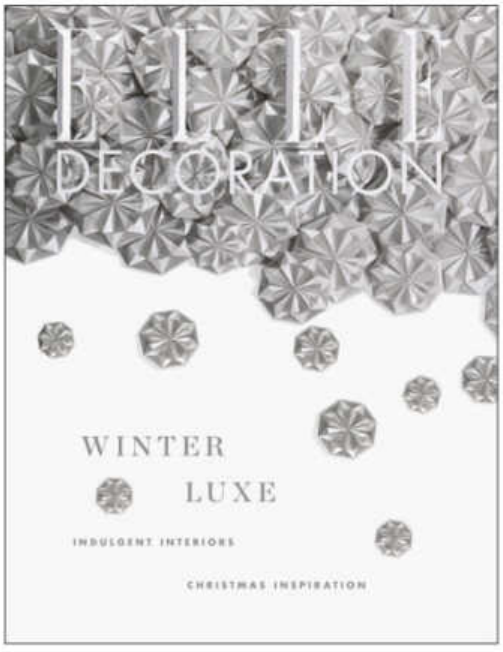
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'Miffy's Dream Cloud' lamp by Mr Maria, £114, Rowdy Roddy Vintage (rowdyroddyvintage.com)

2



'Tube' clock by Piet Hein Eek for Leff, £129, The Conran Shop (conranshop.co.uk)

3



Porcelain pestle and mortar, £26; lemon squeezer, £16; ginger grater, £20, all by Makoto Koizumi for Arita, Native & Co (nativeandco.com)

4



'Astronomici' candle by Fornasetti Profumi, £125, Selfridges (selfridges.com)

PICTURES: GETTY, HEARST STUDIOS

5



Mirrors by Studiopepe for Menu, £349 each, Nest (nest.co.uk)



6

Brass plant mister, £27.50, Cow+Co (cowandco.co.uk)

7



'Maya' purse vase, from £75, Poole Pottery (poolepottery.co.uk)

8

'Golden Deer' plates, £43 for a set of four, Aram Store (aram.co.uk)



PICTURES: GETTY; HEARST STUDIOS

37 OBJECTS OF DESIRE



9

Stapler, £24; tape dispenser, £20, both by Kate Spade, Quill London (quilllondon.com)

'Drip Tease' teapot, £49.95; egg cup, £11, both Reiko Kaneko (reikokaneko.co.uk)

10

11

'Karui' tray by Gam Fratesi, £67, Skultuna (skultuna.com)

12

News From Nowhere by William Morris, £100, The Folio Society (foliosociety.com)

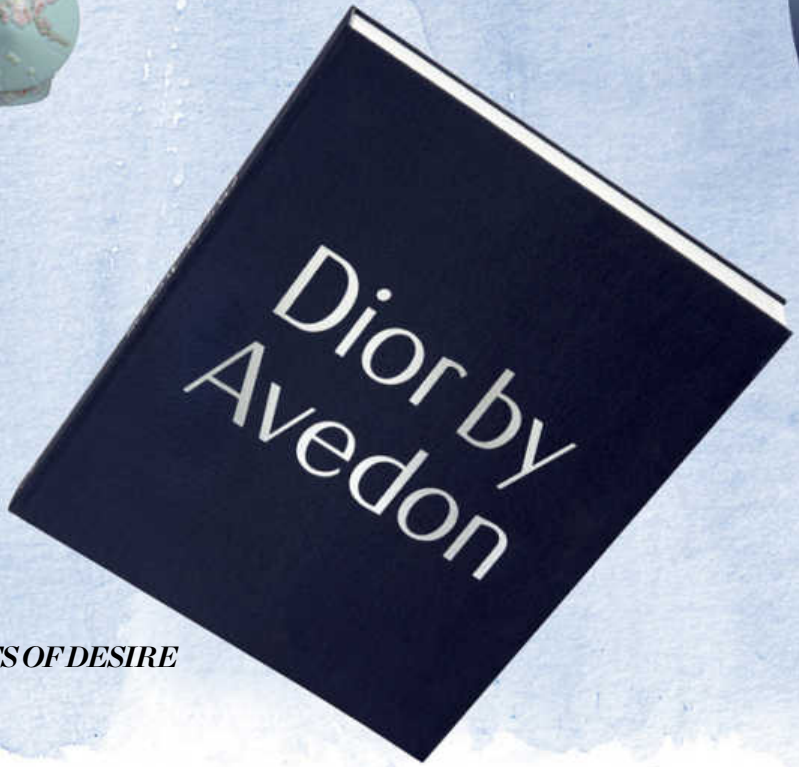
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'Kokeshi III' by José Javier Malavia, £300, Lladró (lladro.com)



14

Dior by Avedon by Justine Picardie, Olivier Saillard and Jacqueline de Ribes, £115, Rizzoli (rizzoli.com)



15

Silver-plated hard drive by Christofle, £369, Harrods (harrods.com)



16

'Sum B' cups by De Intuitiefabriek, £64 for four espresso cups, Monologue (monologuelondon.com)



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37 OBJECTS OF DESIRE



17

Bowl by Roy Humphreys, £18, Makers & Brothers (makersandbrothers.com)

18

Candleholders, £32 for a pair, Cow+Co (cowandco.co.uk)





19

Children's walker by Rüskasa, £215, Jardins Florian (jardinsflorian.com)

20

Earthenware bear by Donna Wilson, £380, SCP (scp.co.uk)



37 OBJECTS OF DESIRE



21 'Natural' bath salt, £9.50; 'Rose & Cornflower' bath salt, £13, both Add:wise (addwise.se)



22 'Mulberry' bike in 'Metallic Oxblood' by Pashley, £995, Mulberry (mulberry.com)



23



'The Proust Questionnaire' stationery set, £80, Assouline (assouline.com)

24



Ikat cushion from the 'Charleston' collection, £295, Yastik by Rifat Özbek (yastikbyrifatozbek.com)

PICTURES: GETTY


George Smith
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25 'Architect' spoons by Alessi, £45 for a set of eight, Royal Academy Shop (shop.royalacademy.org.uk)

26 Mouse plate by Cooee, £22, Violet and Percy (violetandpercy.com)

27 Ultra-premium extra-virgin olive oil by Five, £23.95, Harrods (harrods.com)

28 'Classico' marble bookends

29 by Studiocharlie for Atipico, £95 each, Monologue (monologuelondon.com)

Mug, £14, Ham (hammade.com)

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Tea caddies, £12 each, The East India Company (eicfinefoods.com)



30



Marble board, £69; cheese knives set, £69, both Oliver Bonas (oliverbonas.com)



'Sun Pendulum' clock by Modern Moose, £42.50, Amara (amara.com)

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'Wohn Geist' tool set, £1,995, The Conran Shop (conranshop.co.uk)

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'Eames Quotes' pencils by Polite Society, £25, Barbican (shop.barbican.org.uk)

Rings by Inca Starzinsky, £36 each, Barbican (shop.barbican.org.uk)

Eventually Everything Connects, £25, Barbican (shop.barbican.org.uk)

37

'House of Cards' espresso cups set by Eames Office, £50, Barbican (shop.barbican.org.uk)

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PICTURES: HEARST STUDIOS, GETTY



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SOLUTIONS



IF YOU DO ONE THING THIS MONTH...

CHANGE YOUR LIGHTING! While the holiday season might not be the most opportune moment to embark on a renovation project, you can easily transform a space with a new shade, flex or fixture. Broste Copenhagen has everything you need, including fittings in concrete, glass and shiny metallics.

From left 'Gerd' **concrete-and-glass shade**, £78 including fitting; 'Tobias' **black iron shade**, £78; 'Phil' **brass-finish shade**, £124; 'Gerd' **concrete fitting**, £30 and **globe bulb**, £5.60; 'Poul' **antique brass shade**, £158; 'Nori' **diamond-shaped iron shade**, £126; 'Isac' **metal and glass shade**, £118, all Broste Copenhagen (brostecopenhagen.com)

PICTURE: LINE KLEIN

THE NEW CHANDELIER

Give your room a glitzy glow with a contemporary take on the crystal chandelier. Cluster single pendants such as RE's elegant glass strands or Bert Frank's Art Deco-inspired prismatic columns together for a dazzling display; or use a single dynamic light source to create a more focused centrepiece. We love New York designer Bec Brittain's custom-made brass and LED creation (centre).

From left 'Chandelier' **pendant lights**, from £90 each, RE (re-foundobjects.com). 'Zelda Orbits' **brass and nickel pendant light** by Bec Brittain, approx £8,223, FBC London (fbc-london.com). 'Arbor' **brass and matt black pendant lights** by Robbie Llewellyn, £1,470 each, Bert Frank (bertfrank.co.uk)







WAX LYRICAL

Be inspired by the Danish lifestyle concept *hygge* and cosy up your home for winter using candlelight. Set pillar candles or tealights inside lanterns and hurricane lamps to add warmth to dark corners, or for an atmospheric dining setting. You could even place an individual lantern on every stair tread to create a dramatic cascading focal point (though we wouldn't advise this if you have animals or small children in residence!).

From left Gold and glass **terrariums**, from £15 each, Oliver Bonas (oliverbonas.com). 'Hurricane Classic Collection' **metallic column hurricane lamps** by Skogsberg & Smart, from £45 each, Charles Burnand (charlesburnand.com). 'Smoke' **glass and iron lantern**, £52, Broste Copenhagen (brostecopenhagen.com)

PICTURES: BJÖRN LOFTERUD, LAUREN COLEMAN, LINE KLEIN





ROLL WITH IT

Now's the time to invest in a trolley, a multifunctional piece of furniture that has – perhaps surprisingly – stood the test of the 20th century. From its beginnings as a way of transporting dishes between the public and private rooms of Victorian-era homes, through decades of cocktail hours and drinks parties, the contemporary trolley is a storage solution, serving station and occasional table in one – perfect for the small spaces and open-plan layouts of today's homes. Testament to its timelessness, Alvar Aalto's '901' design has been reissued many times since it launched in 1936: the latest version (right) has been treated to a makeover by Dutch designer Hella Jongerius.

From left 'Vega' **trolley** by Simon Nygaard for Fredericia, £300, Wonderland (madeinwonderland.dk). 'Float' **cart** by Mut Design Studio, £3,041, Miras Editions (miraseditions.com). '901' **trolley** by Alvar Aalto and Hella Jongerius, £1,567, Artek (artek.fi)

Buy it now *As LEDs gradually eclipse traditional incandescent bulbs, Plumen has released its first dimmable LED light source. It combines the energy efficiency of LED technology with the facility to change a light's intensity, allowing you to have flexible yet eco-friendly lighting throughout your home. £29.95 (plumen.com).*

3 OF THE BEST *Simple drink enhancers that improve taste and temperature*



DRINK ROCKS Designed by Runa Klock for Areaware, these soapstone and marble shapes can be kept in the freezer and will keep your spirits chilled without diluting them. £23, April and the Bear (aprilandthebear.com).



BEER GLASSES Achieve the perfect level of effervescence with these angular glasses by designer Daniele Semeraro. Each one is tailored to a specific brew, including Pilsner and IPA. £65 for a 'Monti' taster set, Sempli (sempli.com).



WATER FILTER Purify water using Japanese Binchotan charcoal, which absorbs nasties and improves taste. The 'Eau Good' filter by Black + Blum lasts three months: then simply refresh it with boiling water. £14.95 (black-blum.com).

WORDS: ALEX KRISTAL. PICTURE: ASUN

CLEAR THE CLUTTER

Top up your supply of versatile storage solutions with these stylish new-season pieces. Muuto has added a round basket – great for storing everything from newspapers to firewood – and a tray, perfect for collecting your paperwork or smaller paraphernalia, to its collection of felt boxes. A classic blanket chest, such as Another Country's new design (below) is also a brilliant way to keep accessories hidden away within easy reach: it would also work as a kids' dressing-up box.



From top 'Restore' felt **tray and baskets** by Mika Tolvanen, from £55 for a tray, Muuto (muuto.com). '**Blanket Chest Two**', £1,015, Another Country (anothercountry.com)

Try it now *Learn a new skill and create your own unique wall art at Print Club's twice-weekly screenprinting workshops in Dalston, east London. Whether graffiti art or graphic typography is more your thing, you can design and produce your own individual print to take home. £50 for a one-day beginner's class (printclublondon.com).*



INSIDER GUIDE
FRAMING

Victoria Shahrokh, director of London stylists' favourite framer We Are Facility, shares her top tips

Always ensure that your piece is properly protected when deciding how to frame it. It's essential that you allow the artwork to breathe, and have at least a few millimetres of space between it and the glass.
A tray frame is a great glassless option for stretched canvases, while simple metal frames work really well with vintage posters – and still allow for a thin plastic spacer to protect the print.
Use a mount to elevate your artwork. Options include simple window mounts, bevelled-edge card mounts or float-raising, a method that lifts the artwork away from the backboard by several millimetres. This creates interesting shadows and a nice contemporary finish.
The 'lay on' technique is great for textural artwork, such as old maps, where it's nice to display the imperfections. The process involves attaching the print directly to the backboard, so that all of its creases and edges are exposed.
There are plenty of options for different budgets. Basic woods are the most affordable option, while bespoke surfaces that are hand-stained or painted are more expensive – as is using UV glass.
Conservation of the artwork is paramount. Make sure that you use acid-free glues, tapes and materials if they will be in contact with the artwork.
wearefacility.co.uk



WORDS: ALEX KRISTAL

PAINT PROJECTS

Transform a piece of neglected furniture using these handy tools. Whether your design is as simple as a dipped effect on chair or table legs, or as ornate as Michael Angove's Chinoiserie masterpiece for Farrow & Ball (right), Annie Sloan's 'Mini Project Pack' contains all the materials you need to get going (below, £29.95; anniesloan.com). Those who prefer less preparation should try Everlong's new self-priming chalk-based paint (below: 'Dijon', 'Kingfisher', 'Amble Sea', all £23.50 per litre; everlongpaint.com). Or keep airborne nasties to a minimum with Earthborn's 'Eco Chic' furniture painting kit, which includes water-based clay paint that is breathable and odour free (£49.99; earthbornpaints.co.uk).





Book now *Learn how to expand your cooking repertoire and discover which appliances suit you and your kitchen best with Miele's 'Taste for Design' courses. The classes run from the Miele experience centre in Abingdon and include product demonstrations and tasting sessions. £30 for a half-day course (shop.miele.co.uk).*





CUT A RUG

In search of the perfect floorcovering? It's never been easier to design your own. Carpet brand Silk Avenue can develop any uploaded image into a custom-made rug design, so scroll through your favourite photos and imagine them spun into silk. Alternatively, work alongside the company to customise a rug from its extensive gallery, choosing from hand-knotted or hand-tufted techniques, a range of silks, viscose, wool, linen or cotton, and a staggering 2,000 colour options. From £280 per square metre for hand-tufted quality (silk-avenue.co.uk).

WORDS: ALEX KRISTAL. PICTURES: CHRISTOPHER DRAKE, HEARST STUDIOS

PERFECT PLACE SETTINGS

Food tastes even better when presented beautifully. Try these four stylish looks to update your dinner table



LUXE

From top Black **placemat** by Gayle Warwick, £150, Thomas Goode (thomasgoode.com). 'Dipped' **two-tone trays**, from £21 each, The Vintage Vogue (thevintagevogue.com). 'Ella' **cutlery** by Villeroy & Boch, £299 for a 24-piece set, Selfridges (selfridges.com). 'Pomona' **plate**, from £29, Bodo Sperlein (bodosperlein.com). **Coasters**, £6 each; **tumbler**, £16, both Anthropologie (anthropologie.com). **Bowl**, £26.25, Canvas Home (canvashomestore.com). 'Symphony' **beakers**, £1,045 each, Bodo Sperlein (bodosperlein.com)

WORDS: ALEX KRISTAL PICTURES: HEARST STUDIOS

GRAPHIC

From left Black **cutlery**, £56 for a five-piece set, Canvas Home (canvashomestore.com). Blue **tablecloth** by Hay, from £49, Selfridges (selfridges.com). **Trivet**, £17, Ferm Living (fermliving.com). **Plate**, £80, Darkroom (darkroomlondon.com). **Jug** by Hemingway for Royal Doulton, £20, Selfridges (selfridges.com). **Black platter**, £115, Darkroom (darkroomlondon.com). **Bowl** by Sara de Campos, £480, Bon Ceramics (bonceramics.com). **Glass** by Hay, £19, Selfridges (selfridges.com)





COLOUR

From left 'Tela' **carafe**, £39; **tumbler**, £9, both by Wrong for Hay, Selfridges (selfridges.com). **Table runner**, £12.99, Zara Home (zarahome.com). Hand-poured porcelain **bowls**, £137 each; **plates**, from £60 each, all Muriel Grateau (murielgrateau.com). **Pitcher** by Michael Ruh, £175, The New Craftsmen (thenewcraftsmen.com). 'Party' **napkin** by Yves Delorme, £18, Monogrammed Linen Shop (monogrammedlinenshop.com). **Cutlery** by Muller van Severen, available February 2016, Valerie Objects (valerie-objects.com)



CRAFT

From top Linen **tablecloth**, from £392, Once Milano (oncemilano.com). **Wooden platter** by Eleanor Lakeline, from £425; **plate** by Silvia K, £45, both The New Craftsmen (thenewcraftsmen.com). **Cutlery**, £28 for five pieces, Anthropologie (anthropologie.com). **Tumbler**, £45, Sue Pryke (suepryke.com). **Bowl** by Takashi Endo, £19, Goodhood (goodhoodstore.com). **Spoon**, £50, Wooden & Woven (woodwoven.com). **Carafe**, £40, Sue Pryke (suepryke.com). **Placemats** by Mourne Textiles, £85 for four, The New Craftsmen (thenewcraftsmen.com). **Knife**, £35, Wooden & Woven (woodwoven.com). **Plate** by Frama, from £22, Chase and Sorensen (chaseandsorensen.com)

PICTURES: HEARST STUDIOS


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Assistant **ENRICO DONADELLO**

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PICTURES: ALAMY



Porcelain mugs, £25 each, Chito Kuroda (chitokuroda.com)

'Tove' rug, £75, Urban Outfitters (urbanoutfitters.com)

'Barbry' tray by Aurelien Barbry for Georg Jensen, £95, Amara (amara.com)

'Gunmetal Fisheye' mirror, £125, French Connection (frenchconnection.com)

'Kilo' nest of three tables, £75, Habitat (habitat.co.uk)



PICTURES: ALAMY



'Cable Lamp' pendant lights, £165 each, Folklore (shopfolklore.com)

Linen double duvet set in dark grey, £79.99, H&M (hm.com)

'Lyss' smoked glass table lamp, £20, Habitat (habitat.co.uk)

'Alfredo' salad servers by Alfredo Häberli for Georg Jensen, £35; 'Original' bottle opener by Peter Holmblad for Stelton, £24.95, both Skandium (skandium.com)



'Soft' coat hangers, £24 for a set of four, Hay (hay.dk)

'Kiki' grinders by Lincoln Rivers for Wireworks, from £36.50 each, Skandivis (skandivis.co.uk)

'Dress Up' clothes rack by Nomess Copenhagen, £200, John Lewis (johnlewis.com)

'Stockholm Aquatic' bowls by Bernadotte & Kylberg for Stelton, from £30 each, Skandium (skandium.com)



'Penelope' pendant light in Slate, £36, John Lewis (johnlewis.com)





'Tools' roasting dish by Björn Dahlström for Iittala, from £199, David Mellor (davidmellordesign.com)

'Diamond Interlock' rug, from £168, Anthropologie (anthropologie.com)

'Zen' serving bowls, £20 for a set of five, Kelly Hoppen London (kellyhoppen.com)

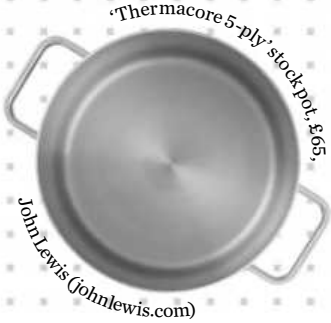


'Binic' table lamp by Ionna Vautrin for Foscarini, £117, Aram Store (aram.co.uk)

PICTURES: ALAMY



'Thermacore 5-ply' frying pan, from £65, John Lewis (johnlewis.com)



'Thermacore 5-ply' stock pot, £65, John Lewis (johnlewis.com)

'Untitled Light', £350, Untitled Story (untitledstory.com)

'Masanori' brass trivet by Oji Masanori, £50, Twentytwentyone (twentytwentyone.com)



'Sunspel and Leach Pottery' collection, from £18 for a pourer, Sunspel (sunspel.com)



'Sweeper and Funnel' by Jan Kochański for Menu, £46, Monologue London (monologue london.com)



'Vacuum' jug in brass by Erik Magnussen for Stelton, £54.95, Skandium (skandium.com) ED

PICTURES: ALAMY, HEARST STUDIOS



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THE WONDERFUL EVERYDAY

We've long been fans of The White Company's simple, stylish products. Here, we meet founder Chrissie Rucker to discover the secret of its success

Words **LYDIA SLATER**
Portrait **SUKI DHANDA**

THE MOTTO HANGING ON ONE WALL of Chrissie Rucker's office is impossible to miss. *I like things to happen*, it says. *And if they don't happen, I like to make them happen*. 'That's what I've always tried to do,' says Rucker, the 47-year-old founder of The White Company. 'I think it's the key to being an entrepreneur. Don't listen to people who say your idea is impossible – find a way to make it possible.'

Twenty-one years after Rucker started a tiny mail-order company from her boyfriend's spare bedroom, The White Company has grown into one of Britain's best-loved homewares brands. It turns over £180 million, employs 1,300 people and has 54 stores in the UK. Within the next five years, Rucker is aiming for turnover to hit £300 million; she was awarded an MBE in 2010. Could she ever have imagined such success? 'Not in a million years,' she admits.

It all started when Rucker, then a beauty journalist, attempted to redecorate her boyfriend's new house. 'He honestly didn't have a clue how to tackle it and I didn't really either,' she confesses. 'So I decided to keep it very simple: white linen, white towels, white bathrobes, white china...' But she found it hard to track down the simple, classic white basics she was looking for. 'Everything was either really ornate and fussy or cheap and nasty, or horribly expensive. I couldn't find anything I liked at a price we could afford.'

The 'lightbulb moment' came when Rucker and her boyfriend were visiting his sister. 'She had also been through the process of kitting out a house in white and remarked: "Gosh, wouldn't it be great if there was a company that only sold lovely white things?" I was so excited, I couldn't sleep.' Back at her desk, Rucker researched the idea, tracking down a Portuguese bedspread maker who supplied a high-end designer she admired. 'They were selling a bedspread for £250 that I realised I could sell for £85 if I was going direct to the customer.' So she resigned from her job and invested £6,000 that her grandmother had left her into her fledgling business. 'My father thought I was bonkers,' she laughs.



1 **'Mercury Bottle' table lamp, £180 (£144 with discount)**
Handmade with a white linen shade on a hand-blown glass base, and finished in antiqued silver, this piece is a future classic.

How did she choose the brand's name? 'I thought, well, as long as people remember it's the company that sells white things. White just works for everything – whoever you are, wherever you live, and whatever your style is.' Rucker's own 17th-century Buckinghamshire home, which she shares with her husband and their four children – Tom, Ella, India and Bea – is a haven of soft whites and greys, with seagrass on the floor and mud confined to the boot room. 'But the look works just as well if you live in the city and like a sleek aesthetic.'

'The company's journey has been a very personal one. Each stage has happened because of how my life was going'

Although she only began with a 12-page catalogue of linen-cupboard basics, the appealing simplicity of Rucker's concept brought her plenty of press attention. By the end of the first year she was receiving 25 orders a day, which she fulfilled from her boyfriend's spare bedroom. 'I gradually started to fill every room in the house with boxes until you couldn't get in through the front door.' Fortunately for Rucker, her boyfriend – now husband – was Nick Wheeler, founder of the mail-order shirt company Charles Tyrwhitt, so he was able to provide her with advice as well as storage space. 'I was unbelievably lucky,' she says. 'In the early days he helped me so much.'

Nevertheless, it wasn't easy. Money was tight and Rucker made 'lots and lots' of mistakes. 'We had some disasters with suppliers – the roof blew off one bedlinen factory, so that was a sharp lesson in not having just one supply base. Things arrived and they weren't how they should have been – that was a learning process in how you specify products.' In spite of teething problems, by 1996 The White Company was listed as one of Britain's fastest-growing brands.

Unlike some other companies that experience rapid growth, The White Company has always reflected its founder's values and vision. 'The journey has been a very personal one,' says Rucker. 'Each stage has happened because of how my life was going.' One of its first fragrances, 'Winter', was modelled on the aromatherapy oils Rucker blended herself to scent her home. In 1997 she launched The Little White Company, because she had found it difficult to source clothes and furniture for her baby son. And 'Twenty One', a new fragrance launching this year to celebrate the brand's anniversary, is a zesty combination of her favourite smells, including citrus and geranium. 'It's light, bright and really happy,' she says.

Now, Rucker feels it's time to give something back. As well as setting up her White Heart Foundation, helping vulnerable women and children in the UK, she is offering mentoring opportunities to the winner of 'Brand of the Future', a category sponsored by The White Company at the Natwest Everywoman Awards, of which she is a judge. 'So many people helped me,' she says. 'It can make such a difference to how quickly you get going.' But surely there's no such yawning gap in the homewares market nowadays as the one she spotted 21 years ago? 'There are always gaps in the market,' she says firmly. 'The important thing is to believe in what you do. If you can transmit that passion, you can take everyone else with you.'

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2

The antiqued silver finish lends the 'Mercury Bottle' vase a timeless, luxurious appeal

'Mercury Bottle' vase, £18 (£14.40 with discount)

3

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Stoneware plates and bowls, from £10 for a side plate (£8 with discount); 'Elgin' tumblers, £5 each (£4 with discount); 'Stanton' 16-piece cutlery set, £95 (£76 with discount; wine glasses excluded from offer)





4 **Travel clock, £25 (£20 with discount)** Small, sleek, elegant and beautifully presented in its own white leather zipped case.



5 **Zip purse, £25 (£20 with discount); keyring, £15 (£12 with discount)** White-gold accessories for a touch of glam.



6 **Grey knitted pom pom boots, £40 (£32 with discount)** The perfect way to keep toes toasty this winter.



7 **'Verveine' fragrance collection, from £15 for home spray (£12 with discount)** A fresh, uplifting blend of citrus notes including verbena, orange and lemon.



8 **Marble pestle and mortar, £40 (£32 with discount)** Simple, practical, and made from natural marble. The pestle has a coarse end for grinding.



9 **'Riley' throw, £85 (£68 with discount); cushion covers, from £35 (£28 with discount)** Super-soft knits to snuggle up with. Made in Portugal using a cosy wool-mix blend.



10 **Dinner candleholder, £12 (£9.60 with discount); pillar candleholder, £25 (£20 with discount)** Group these antiqued-glass pieces together for a festive centrepiece.



11 **Silver-plated picture frames, £55 and £75 (£44 and £60 with discount)** Because any photo looks better in a chic silver frame.



12 **Classic alarm clock, £35 (£28 with discount)** A simple Scandinavian-styled way to wake up every day.



13 **Mother of pearl frames, from £30 (£24 with discount)** We love the texture of these charcoal-coloured, natural mother of pearl picture frames, which are beautifully trimmed in silver plate.

PICTURES: HEARST STUDIOS



14 **'Clean' nude leather tote, £249 (£199.20 with discount)** This is the definitive simple leather everyday bag.



15 **'Stamford' throw, £150 (£120 with discount); cushion cover, £35 (£28 with discount); pictured with 'Berkeley' throw and cushion (see next page)** These paisley designs are inspired by traditional Indian-block prints. ➤



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16 **'Berkeley' collection, from £30 for a cushion (£24 with discount)** From quilts to cushion covers, this collection is crafted by hand with a silk habutai front and a cotton reverse.

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THE WHITE COMPANY **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Chrissie Rucker didn't grow up with a passion for interior design. Her horse-mad mother kept the stables spotless, but wasn't interested in the house. 'When I met my husband Nick, I discovered that his stepmother had a beautiful home and I wanted to know how she did it,' she says.

- Rucker left school at 16, having missed much of her O-Level year because of glandular fever, but her experience of competitive riding as a teenager was invaluable training for her future business career. 'It gave me great resilience. You work incredibly hard, you train and train, you compete and it's a disaster. Never mind, have another go. That was my attitude,' she says.

- The Little White Company was originally called the Baby and Child Collection. Rucker decided to launch it after spending days searching for classic nursery bedlinen 'that wasn't covered in shiny, frilly lace or whopping gorillas'. Now, it offers everything from that first Moses basket to a stylish duvet cover for a cool 10-year-old.

- The White Company doesn't just do white. Cool greys and neutrals joined the home, clothing and accessories ranges in 2001. 'We've been through an evolution of adding little bits of seasonal colour,' says Rucker. 'But we'll never do brights.'

- In 2014 The White Company launched The White Heart Foundation, teaming up with charities (currently Refuge and The Prince's Trust) to help create brighter futures for disadvantaged women and children in the UK. 10 per cent of sales from selected items is donated – look for the heart logos.

- The Christmas wrapping paper stocked by The White Company could cover the tower housing Big Ben three and a half times, while its fir and snowberry garlands would stretch around the perimeter of Hyde Park one and a half times. The company expects to sell two million strings of fairy lights this festive season.

- According to research carried out by the brand, some customers admit to coming into The White Company simply to calm down amid the stores' soothing pale decor after a stressful day at the office.


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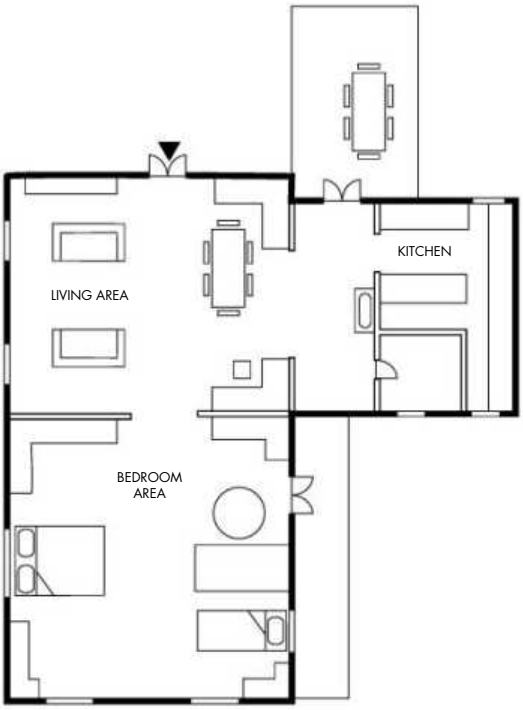


HIGH SOCIETY

This unique apartment, once the grand library of the Bergdoll mansion in Philadelphia, has retained its air of stately elegance

Words **HANNAH BOOTH**
Photography **NGOC MINH NGO/ TAVERNE AGENCY**

Living area The Chesterfield sofa is from Brooklyn antiques store Holler & Squall (find its listing on 1stDibs) and is covered in cushions picked up on homeowner Gayle's travels. The metal trunk chest is from Restoration Hardware: on top of it is a photo of Gayle doing a handstand on the salt plains in Death Valley, California **Stockist details on p144 ➤**





With its humbling proportions, hand-carved doors and soaring ceilings painted with classical scenes, Gayle Smith's Philadelphia home is less an apartment, more a small palace. Originally the library of the Bergdoll Mansion, a stately Italianate manor built in 1882 for the brewing dynasty the Bergdolls, it is one of six apartments in this historic residence. The house sits on a grassy hill in the city's central Fairmount district, a short walk from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Barnes Collection and Rodin Museum. 'I felt like Maria entering the ballroom of the von Trapp family home,' Gayle says of the first time she walked through the apartment's heavy oak double-doors. Seduced by the grandeur of the place, she instantly knew that this would be a wonderful home for herself and her then 10-year old daughter, Ona.

English-born Gayle left London in the early 1990s for New York, where she worked her way up from design assistant at Banana Republic to vice president at Victoria's Secret. In 2010, living in Brooklyn and working as a fashion consultant for the likes of Edun and American Eagle, her dream job came up: director of women's design at Urban Outfitters. The brand's hipster headquarters are in Philadelphia, a city Gayle quickly came to love for its beautiful old neighbourhoods. 'The areas around the Museum of Art feel very cosmopolitan because of the wide boulevards and fountains,' says Gayle. 'You could almost be in Europe. Some mornings, I drop my daughter off on the school bus and go to sit between the gigantic Corinthian columns of the museum to luxuriate in the architecture and the quiet.'

The apartment is open-plan yet subtly separated into living, eating and sleeping spaces. Two large sofas define the lounging area and through an archway is one large room split into two bedrooms, with no dividing wall. Ona's side is filled with toys and a line of school lockers spray-painted gold. Gayle's is feminine and cosy, with a vast shuttered window behind the bed, glass-fronted library shelves, and sheepskins on the floor.

A modern, but sympathetically designed side wing, including a bathroom and a light-filled kitchen, leads to a large terrace overlooking a communal garden planted with magnolia and fig trees. In the warmer months, Gayle and Ona spend much of their time there, under the shade of the trees. 'Twice I have seen a possum casually draped around the 20-foot-high trunk of one of the oak trees, staring at me,' says Gayle. 'It's a far cry from New York.'

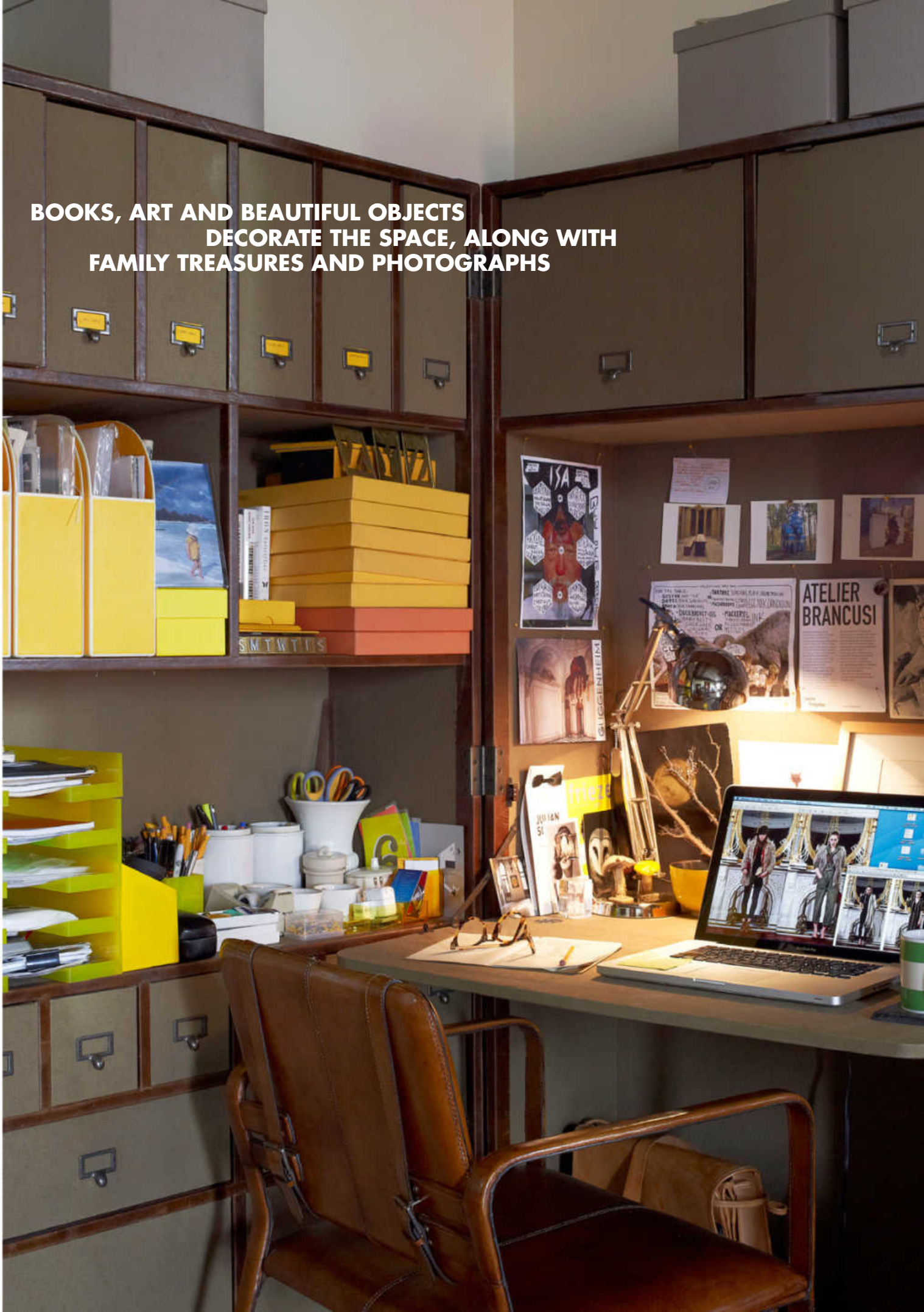
Books, art and beautiful objects fill the apartment, along with family treasures and photographs. Travel is Gayle's passion, and the house's formal architecture provides a museum-like backdrop to her vast collection of mementoes, picked up from different continents. These include handmade children's shoes from Vietnam and Morocco and strands of jewellery from Tulum beaches and Tanzanian tribes.

'This unusual home was too good to turn down,' says Gayle. 'It survived a terrible fire in the late 1980s, just after the current owner bought it. There were petitions to pull it down, but instead it was meticulously restored. So much love has been put into this property.' Now, Gayle wishes to continue that legacy.

Hallway An antique brass coat stand is paired with a decorative leather horse
Living room The putty-coloured sofa is from Crate & Barrel, but you can find similar in the UK at Loaf. The low table with curved legs is a salvaged piece, re-covered in leather. For a similar metal table light, try Habitat's 'Ribbon'
Stockist details on p144 ➤

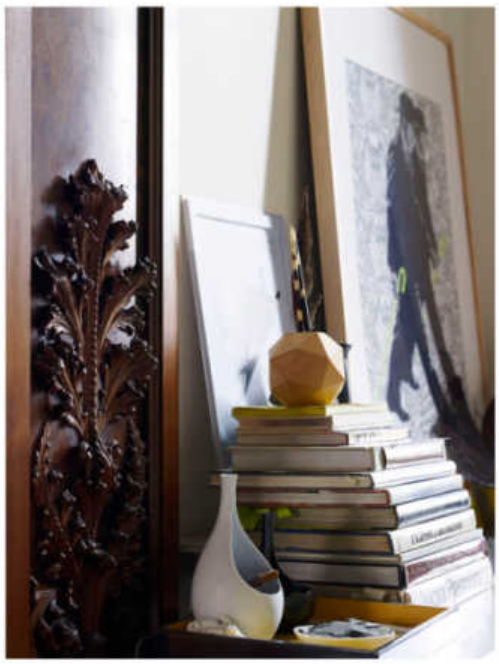


THE APARTMENT'S FORMAL ARCHITECTURE PROVIDES A MUSEUM-LIKE BACKDROP TO MEMENTOES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



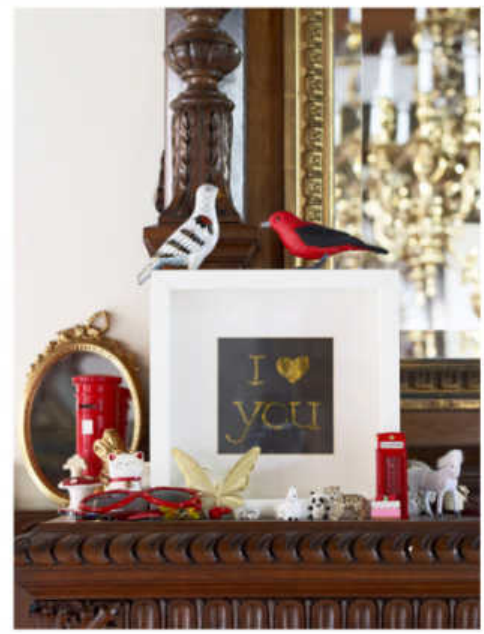
BOOKS, ART AND BEAUTIFUL OBJECTS DECORATE THE SPACE, ALONG WITH FAMILY TREASURES AND PHOTOGRAPHS











Office The workspace, contained within a metal trunk, and the tan-leather chair are both from Restoration Hardware
Details Dark wood shelves throughout the apartment are filled with ever-changing displays of family photo collages, prints, ceramics and objects from the homeowner's travels
Stockist details on p144 ➤



Bedroom The ornate ceiling, painted with classical scenes, is an original feature of Bergdoll Mansion. The glass-fronted bookcases are faithful reproductions of the 1850s originals – this apartment was once the library of this grand stately house. Sheepskins add warmth underfoot (find similar at John Lewis) and the reading lights are vintage pieces from Holler & Squall **Stockist details on p144** ED



Holy order

A restrained colour palette and collections of religious iconography imbue this Cape Town bolthole with an air of reverence



Words **TRISH LORENZ** *Photography* **WARREN HEATH/GAP INTERIORS/BUREAUX**
Production **SVEN ALBERDING**




CHANEL



Johannesburg-based interior designer and events organiser Otto De Jager leads a far from tranquil life. He describes a typical working day as 'choreographed chaos'; a whirl of wedding planning and social gatherings that takes him all across South Africa. Otto stays in his Cape Town house for just one week every month, which is why he was keen for it to be a restful retreat. 'My work life is busy and demanding, so I need simplicity and order at home,' he says.

Built in 1895, Otto's house is situated in the historic city centre amongst the cobbled streets, upmarket boutiques, cafes and gardens of affluent suburb Green Point. 'It's quintessential Cape Town,' he says. 'I wanted to live somewhere that had a sense of community, rather than a beach house in a tourist area.' Otto bought the 255-square-metre house in 2003 and spent almost 12 years renovating it. He restored many of its original details, from the tongue-and-groove wooden ceilings to the ornate Victorian tiles adorning the fireplace. This classical backdrop sets the scene for a rich mix of antiques unearthed in France, Italy, India, China and Argentina, which lend the space a timeless feel. 'I wanted it to be warm and cosy, but not fussy or cluttered. There's an airy calmness here that I really enjoy,' says Otto.

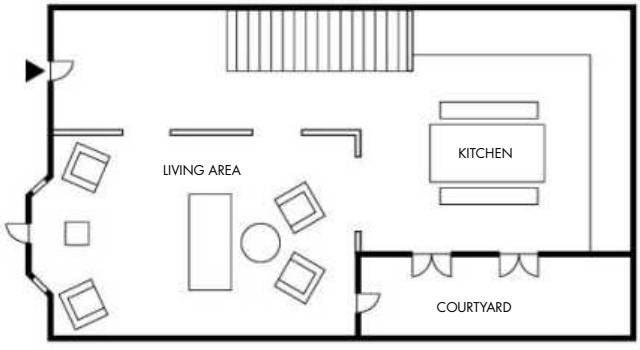
Painted entirely in white, the rooms are both simple and luxurious. On the ground floor two large open-plan living spaces are separated by a central chimneybreast that has cast-iron fires on either side. Otto has grouped a pair of armchairs by each hearth, both of which are accessorised with objets d'art, fine crystal and stacks of vintage books. It's these refinements that give the house a sense of opulence. 'My home is a little pared-back but comfortable. I restrained myself on the decoration; it took discipline not to go over the top,' Otto explains.

In the kitchen/dining area, an oak table and bench invite guests to sit and enjoy a glass of wine or a casual meal. 'The kitchen was very difficult to design because I didn't want to do something predictable,' Otto says. 'I've created more of a galley lounge; it works as a cooking space when required, but it's primarily an extension of the living room.'

At the top of the stairs is a display that Otto calls his 'gallery of instant ancestors', a series of vintage oil portraits that he has found in stores around the world. 'I love portraiture, from the old masters right through to modern painters and photographers like Robert Mapplethorpe,' he says. 'This display is a way to enhance the history of the house – to create a sense that people have walked the corridors before me.'

There are also a number of religious references throughout the space: vintage Argentinian statues of angels are dotted around the kitchen and main bedroom, while a sculpture of a local saint takes pride of place in the living room. 'I never meant for the house to have religious overtones, but they seem to have crept in: there are even olive trees in the garden,' says Otto with a smile. 'I think it's because the day that I signed the deeds for the house I found the sculpture of the saint in a local antiques store – she is said to protect the nearby harbour and inspired the entire design of the house.' *odjevents.com*

GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



Living area A 19th-century French mirror hangs above the fireplace. Two lounge chairs from a secondhand shop in Cape Town have been re-upholstered in plush purple velvet. 'I like the religious, Catholic overtones of purple,' says homeowner Otto (above). The wooden flowers are part of an antique Chinese chandelier rose and are two of his favourite pieces in the house ➤





'I wanted the house to be warm and cosy, but not fussy or cluttered. There's an airy calmness here that I really enjoy'



Kitchen Down the corridor from the living room is the simple cooking and dining space. The design for the bespoke table and benches was inspired by the homeowner's visit to an Italian monastery. Try Boffi for similar stainless-steel kitchen units **Stockist details on p144 ➤**





Bedroom This sanctuary is decorated with a number of antiques, including a four-poster bed dating from 1890, two vintage chairs from Buenos Aires and a matching pair of wooden armoires ➤



'The interior is curated: all the pieces have a story, but each has its own space and is given room to breathe'



Bathroom A Cape Town artist made the marble feet that stand on the window ledge (above). A vintage bathtub sits on a raised slab of Carrara marble beside shelves displaying glass jars and luxury bath products ED


EUCERIN.



FACTORY RESET

Drawn to its lofty architecture and sci-fi feel, one creative couple have completely transformed this abandoned industrial unit into a modern home that's perfect for entertaining

Words **EMMA LOVE**
Photography **BEPPE BRANCATO/LIVING INSIDE**

Living area A leather sofa by Percival Lafer (try 1st Dibs) is teamed with a 1960s suede shell chair. The 'Saturn' light is by Giò Ponti and Pietro Chiesa
Stockist details on p144 ➤



'WHEN WE FIRST SAW THE BUILDING WE THOUGHT ITS ARCHITECTURE WAS AMAZING. IT REMINDED US OF A FILM SET FOR *BLADE RUNNER* OR *SIN CITY*'



Dining area The homeowners designed the table, which is paired with a 1960s metal pendant light sourced from Mobelkunst
Stockist details on p144 ➤





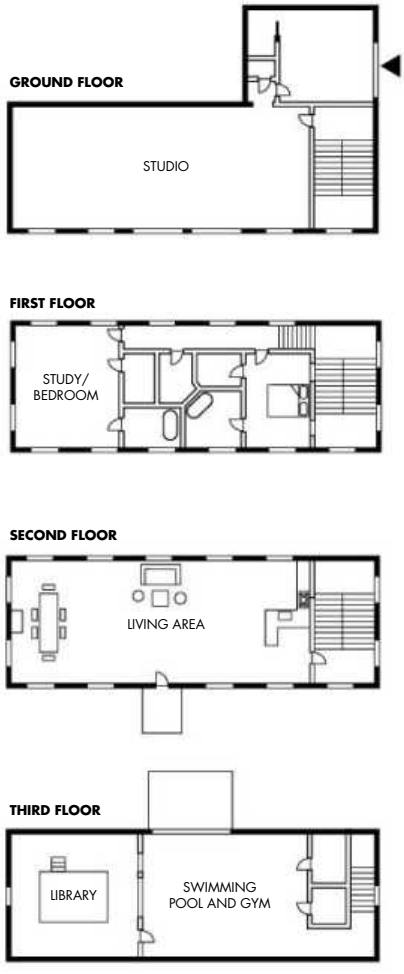
This towering industrial property in Ferencváros, Budapest – the city's diverse and rapidly developing ninth district – is an unconventional choice for a family abode. Initially the heart of a weapons factory complex and later a knitting warehouse piled high with machinery and stores of fabric, the 600-square-metre building has a long working history, but for the past 11 years it has been home to architect and production designer Attila F Kovacs and his wife, art director and stylist Zsuzsa Megyesi. Their daughter Lili, 24, also lived here before she moved to Spain.

'When we first saw the building we thought it was architecturally amazing. It reminded us of a film set for *Blade Runner* or *Sin City*,' recalls Zsuzsa. 'Attila has always liked massive spaces and I prefer to live without neighbours, so this tower attracted us like a magnet.'

The renovation of the abandoned four-storey space proved challenging; the entire place needed to be rewired and it had no running water. The project took two years and also involved uncovering windows that had been walled in. 'There were lots of tiny rooms, many of which served as storage areas. They all looked like ordinary run-down warehouse spaces – very narrow with low ceilings – and had no interesting details,' Zsuzsa says.

A quick glance around the property today reveals a radical transformation of its layout. On the ground floor are the couple's offices: they collaborate as A+Z Studio but also have their own separate projects (Attila has just finished working on the city's new Holocaust Memorial Centre, while Zsuzsa is currently immersed in a flamenco-themed design venture). The first floor has two bedrooms and bathrooms and the main living space is on the second floor. 'Going up and down the stairs a hundred times a day means that we live a very healthy lifestyle,' Attila jokes. 'Although, there are times when I'm on my way out of the front door and I realise I've left my mobile phone up on the roof terrace – that can be quite annoying.'

'WE LOVE THE ABANDONED ATMOSPHERE HERE: THE SILENCE, AND HAVING FEWER PEOPLE AROUND US. IT'S VERY RARE TO FIND A LARGE SPACE LIKE THIS IN THE CITY CENTRE'



Throughout the living spaces, designer items including Giò Ponti and Pietro Chiesa's 'Saturn' lamp, Percival Lafer's leather sofa and a G-Plan dressing table are mixed with the couple's own creations, such as a comfy 'Puli' lounge chair, which is one of Zsuzsa's best-loved pieces. 'It's also a favourite spot for our Dachshund Bori to curl up on,' she adds. Attila is particularly fond of the unique forms and materials of his ceramics by Hungarian artist Janos Török.

When the couple have finished with work for the day they love to play table tennis in the studio, relax in the library, or entertain upstairs. 'The biggest crowd always ends up in the kitchen, or on the terrace,' says Attila. From a weapons factory to a party pad: if only the walls of this fascinating building could talk. *a-z.eu.com* ➤

Living area The 'Puli' lounge chair was designed and handmade by A+Z Studio. It is paired with two ebony wood tabourets (the 'Bells' side table by Gloster for John Lewis is similar) **Stockist details on p144**





THROUGHOUT THE FOUR-STOREY HOUSE VINTAGE FURNITURE IS PAIRED WITH PIECES DESIGNED BY THE HOMEOWNERS



Kitchen The custom-made stainless-steel cabinets are by A+Z Studio (the homeowners' design label), and the bar chairs are vintage Boffi designs
Dining area The 1960s chairs were sourced from Holland
Stockist details on p144 ➤



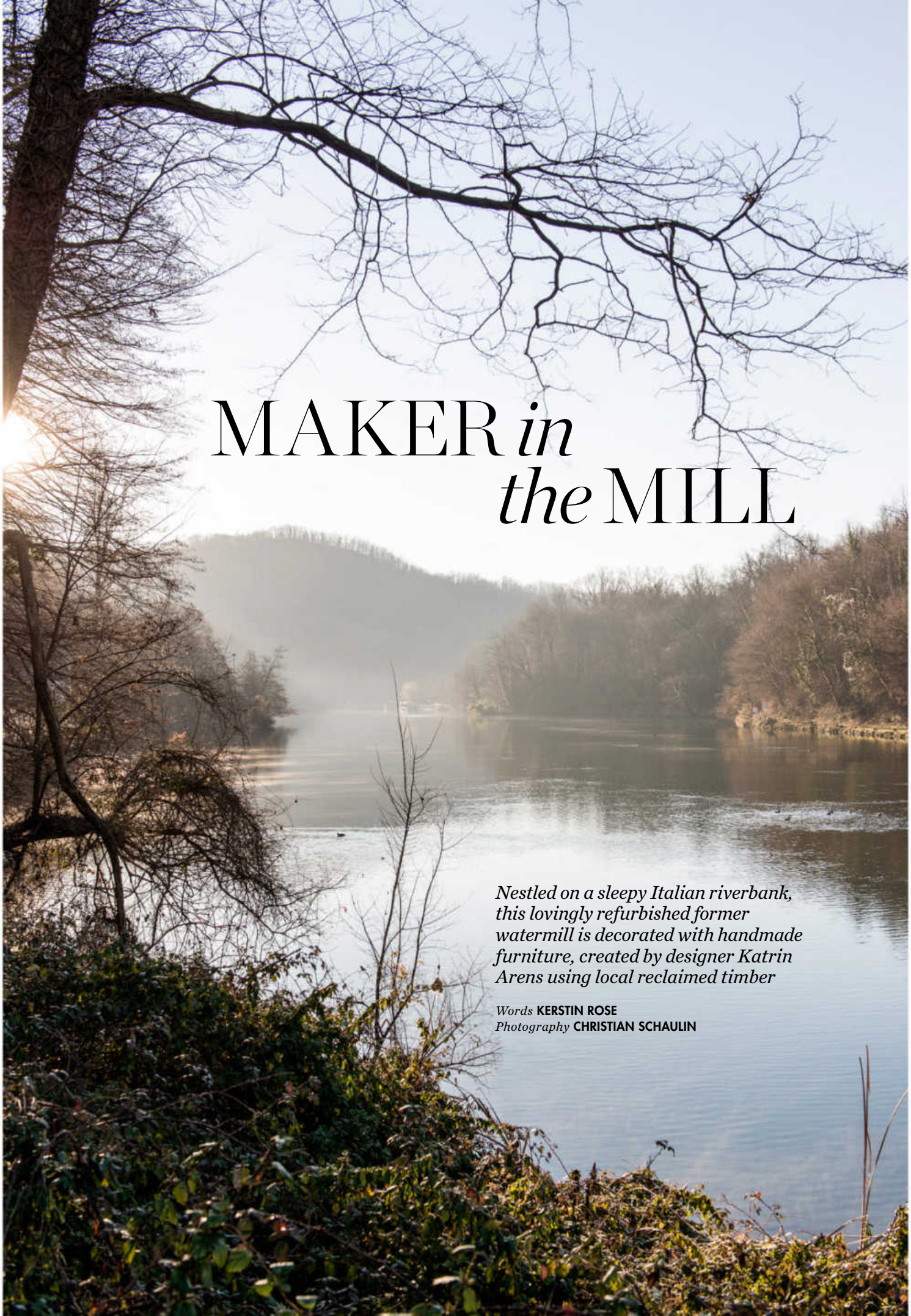


Bedroom Decorated with rich textures, colours and mid-century accents, including a vintage copper floor light and a glass side table, this is a luxurious space ➤



Bathroom This space has a luxe feel thanks to touches such as an opulent antique chandelier and 1950s gold wall sconces. The tiles are Hungarian (Bert & May has reclaimed designs in similar styles) **Stockist details on p144** ED





MAKER *in the* MILL

Nestled on a sleepy Italian riverbank, this lovingly refurbished former watermill is decorated with handmade furniture, created by designer Katrin Arens using local reclaimed timber

Words **KERSTIN ROSE**
Photography **CHRISTIAN SCHAULIN**



Living room Two armchairs inherited from the Katrin's grandparents sit by the fire. The sofa is a repurposed trolley from a disused textile mill ➤



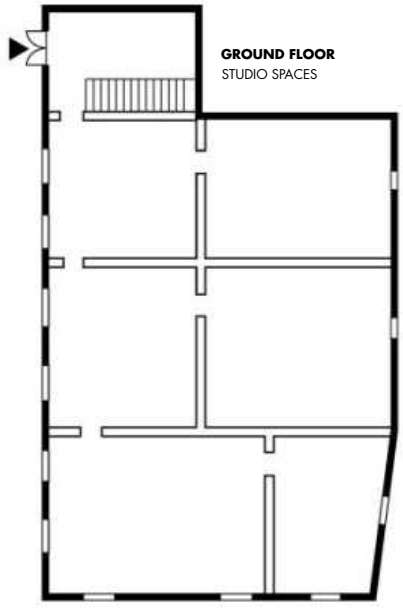
German-born furniture designer Katrin Arens moved into this watermill on the banks of the river Adda in Lombardy, Italy, 16 years ago. Back then, the only residents of the crumbling country pile were swallows nesting in the rafters. 'The windows were boarded up, the plaster on the walls had perished, the flooring was in need of renovation, and there was no running hot water or electricity,' she recalls. Undaunted by the decay, Katrin singlehandedly transformed the first floor of the building into a family home – a generous decision given that she only rents the house from its owner. 'I went on a decorating rampage,' she says of the creation of the space that she now shares with her daughters, Laura (17) and Sofia (nine).

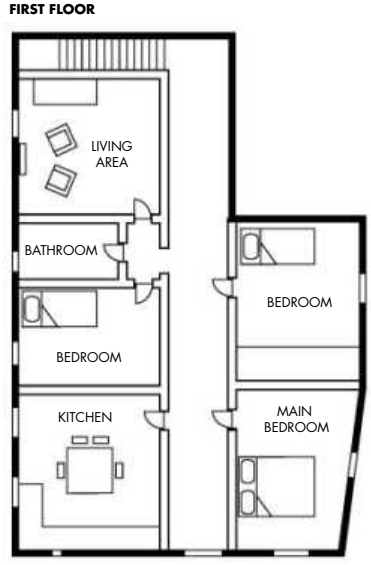
Katrin's renovation is largely cosmetic, but where the building has been restored she has preserved its history, and remained respectful of the local villagers' ties to the property. 'The oldest part of the mill dates back to the 15th century, but in the 17th century it was used as a monastery. By the 19th century, it had been converted back into a farmhouse and watermill, where about 50 people lived until the 1950s,' she says. 'Romano [an elderly local farmer] still visits every day. He was born in this house and is still very attached to the place. He takes care of his vegetable garden and tends to the chickens.'

Throughout the apartment, whitewashed walls and ceiling beams lend the space a light, airy feel. Katrin replaced the rotting floorboards with poured concrete to add a modern edge. The furnishings are all her own creations, constructed using local timber. It is these handmade pieces that give the family home its warmth and character.

The ground floor of the mill is used as a studio. Here, Katrin stockpiles salvaged objects and wood that she may one day turn into something new. She also designs pottery pieces, which are produced by a family firm based in southern Italy. Katrin's craft business has now outgrown the studio, which is why she has transferred her main workshop and team of cabinetmakers to the nearby town of Villa d'Adda, where she has a showroom.

Sadly, Katrin has not been able to fulfil her ultimate wish: to buy the watermill. The owner, a local woman, will not part with the property. As a result, the façade's 500-year-old masonry continues to deteriorate, while inside Katrin restricts herself to simple repairs. 'It's fine. I like that it's all improvised and incomplete,' she says. 'It gives me a tremendous freedom to do things in a totally different way, which works beautifully here.' *katrinarens.it*

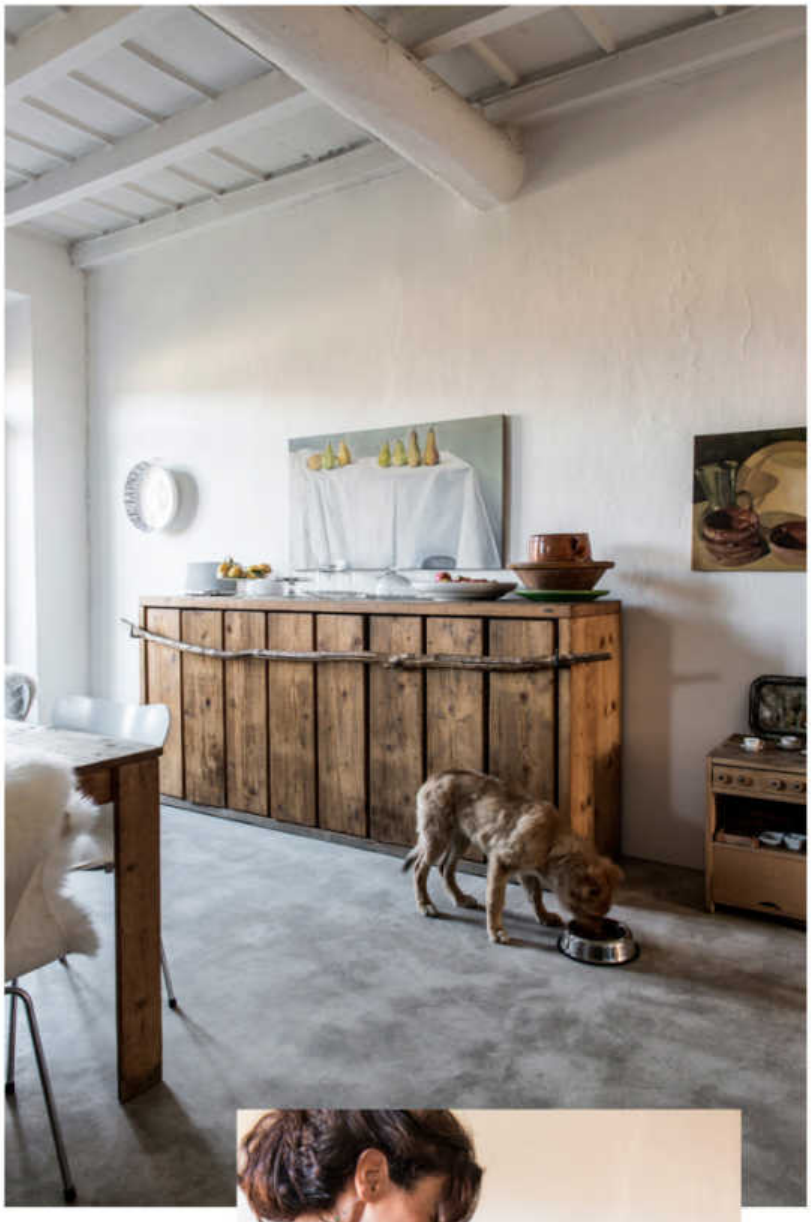




Kitchen Katrin designed the chunky dining table, which is teamed with a set of 'Series 7' chairs by Arne Jacobsen for Fritz Hansen (available at Skandium)
Stockist details on p144 ➤









The kitchen is where the family spend most of their time. Katrin loves to cook for her daughters, Laura and Sofia





Kitchen Katrin designed the sideboard, above which hangs a painting by her mother, Helen Arens ➤



Poured concrete floors add a contemporary twist to the home's handmade furniture and rustic architecture ➤



Whitewashed walls and ceiling beams lend the apartment a light, airy feel, while handmade pieces add warmth and character





MY FAVOURITE THINGS

The kitchen is the heart of our house. We spend most of our time there; it's where the whole family hangs out.
The memory of swallows flying in and out of the mill when we first moved in has stayed with me to this day. The house was abandoned for many years and the birds had built their nests inside. We waited before repairing one of the windows so that the little ones could learn to fly and get out safely.
I love my chaise longue, which I unearthed at a garage sale in Sri Lanka. It took a year to arrive by ship, but it was worth the wait.
The view of the river from my bedroom is incredible. I can also see Monte Resegone from the kitchen, which is quite wonderful.

See pictures of Katrin's studio at elledecoration.co.uk

Bedroom The windows are unadorned so that light pours in across the flagstone floor. The table and chairs are an old garden set, found at a flea market ED



THE BERLIN COLLECTOR

This apartment reflects the artistic eye of its set designer and stylist owner, showcasing an ever-changing roll call of salvaged treasures and vintage curiosities

Words **TRISH LORENZ**
Photography **ANNE-CATHERINE SCOFFONI**
Styling **CHRISTINE JUETTE**



Living room A 'Bedeve' sofa by Cerutti is flanked by two side tables (both found on Ebay) topped with vintage silver trays from Asia. The coffee table is an antique guest bed – the homeowner removed the fabric cover to expose the springs and then covered it with a glass top **Stockist details on p144 ➤**



Almost 30 years after the fall of the wall, Berlin is one of Europe's hippest cities: young, eclectic and free. It's a capital with an independent spirit and here, at the heart of the creative buzz, set designer and stylist Christian Kleemann is perfectly at home. His 186-square-metre apartment on the third floor of a late 19th-century building is a *wunderkabinett* brimming with salvaged pieces, heirlooms and artworks that are beautifully combined.

Located in Berlin's Kreuzberg borough – counter-culture hub of West Germany that's fast becoming a gentrified district of cafes, markets and green spaces – the apartment affords views across leafy treetops to Berlin's TV tower. 'It's the equivalent of looking out over the Eiffel Tower,' Christian says. Observed from the street, the building is unprepossessing: its original façade was damaged during the war and parts of it were subsequently removed. But on stepping inside, the marble columns and delicately decorated wooden staircase display the property's enduring beauty.

The entrance hall to Christian's home sweeps into vast rooms that feel even larger due to their high, ornate ceilings and big windows – the century-old glass offers a slightly blurry view of the street outside. 'It's like looking through water,' says Christian. 'At night, the light creates glistening puddles on the floor.'

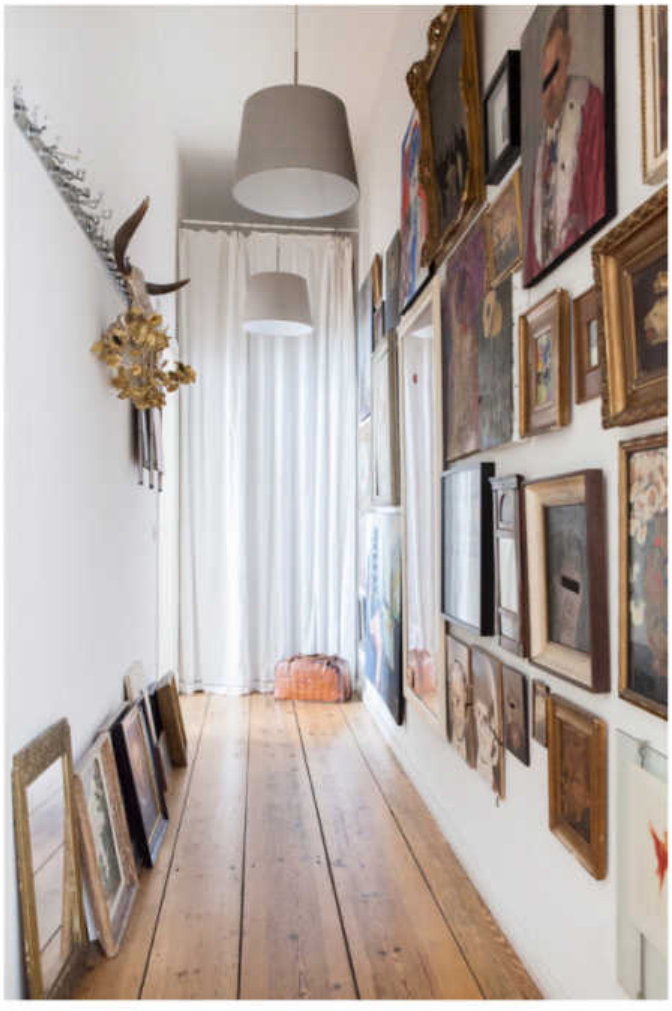
The architecture is dramatic, but it is Christian's array of curiosities, furniture and artworks that catch the eye. Walking through this home is like visiting a private museum; you feel enticed to stop and ponder the provenance of every piece. 'I'm always collecting. I can't stop even though I already have too much,' says Christian. 'Every time I buy something new I try to find the perfect place for it and occasionally that means that everything has to move around. The house is a bit like a sand dune in the desert, shifting with the wind.'

The vitrine in the dining room is typical of Christian's approach to design. It displays a host of weird and wonderful objects, ranging from vintage leather luggage to animal skeletons and glassware, as well as a series of chairs, discovered on the streets of Berlin and placed along the top. 'They're there for a prosaic reason, which is that I don't have enough space for them anywhere else,' says Christian, 'but the effect is charming'.

'Not everything I own is extraordinary, but I think that all of my belongings respond to each other,' he says. 'The secret to this kind of decorating is to take a lot of time to really look at objects and find a dialogue between them.'
christiankleemann.com



'I'M ALWAYS MOVING THINGS AROUND. THE HOUSE IS A BIT LIKE A SAND DUNE IN THE DESERT, SHIFTING WITH THE WIND'



Hallway A console table displaying treasures is teamed with a pair of African stools. The portraits, found in a charity shop, were altered by Christian (above)
Dining area The table is a modified market stall, while the pendant lights are from Ebay (try Skinflint for similar). Along the top of the display cabinet is a row of antique chairs that the homeowner found all over Berlin
Stockist details on p144 ➤





MY PERFECT DAY

I always begin the day with a good coffee. I like to take my time waking up; usually I listen to classical music or a cultural programme on the radio. Afterwards, I like to work for a while, then go for a walk in the park. **In the afternoon I often meet a friend for a chat**, maybe at Melitta Sundström (Mehringdamm 61, 10961; melitta-sundstroem.de), my favourite local coffee shop. It's not chic but it's very Berlin, the clientele is really mixed and the waiters are very sweet. **In the evenings I love to invite friends around for dinner**. I'm an experimental cook; I look in the fridge and see what I have and then make something. This summer, I baked with fig leaves to evoke the scent of fig trees in the sun. It's a favourite scent of mine that always reminds me of holidays in Croatia.



Kitchen The dining chairs, originally from former East Germany, have been painted green. The marble tabletop was salvaged from a coffee shop **Detail** The vintage French mirror behind the piano has been customised with a strip of fluorescent tape ED

NORDIC BY NATURE

Situated on the edge of the Charlottenlund forest, this family home has a scheme inspired by the natural world

Words **EMMA LOVE**
Photography **BIRGITTA WOLFGANG/SISTERS AGENCY**



Living room The chaise longue-style chair (above) is by Asplund, as is the sideboard. The corner sofa is from Saxo Living and the 'Ox' armchair is by Hans J Wegner (Aram Store sells reissues in the UK)
Stockist details on p144 ➤



Some ten kilometres north of Copenhagen lies the Charlottenlund Forest, where the Danish royal family used to spend their summers. Hanne Berzant often begins her day there walking her dog Flora, a Bichon Havanese and Lhasa Apso cross. She lives nearby in an enchanting five-bedroom, 340-square-metre villa with her husband, Soren, and children – Emma (20), Josefine (18) and Anna-Frida (eight).

Built in the 1920s, the property has plenty of character, including a bell system that originally connected the main house to the servants' quarters in the basement. All Hanne has done in terms of decoration is to paint the walls white. 'The building had so much atmosphere already,' she says. 'You only have to look at the black-and-white tiles in the entrance hall to see that the owner has such respect for the place. It has so much soul and beauty that it was easy to add the final touches.'

Hanne, who founded (and recently sold) the homeware brand By Nord, is launching a new company next year. Her style, which is hugely influenced by the natural world, permeates the space. 'Nature and the calmness of the Nordic colour palette are very important to me,' she says. 'I'm not the sort of person who changes their home around all the time, but of course I do test a lot of my designs here. I have children and a dog, so the house has to be somewhere to relax.'

To this calm backdrop Hanne has added treasured pieces, such as rugs that she picked up on her travels to Marrakech, and several Japanese papercut artworks. Scandinavian designs feature heavily too,

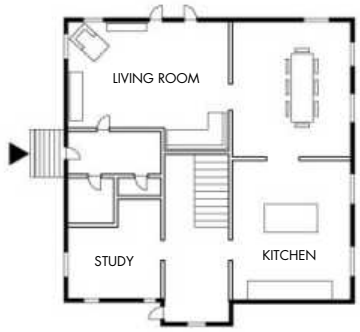


'NATURE AND THE CALMNESS OF THE NORDIC COLOUR PALETTE ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME'

from Fritz Hansen dining chairs and an 'Ox' armchair by Hans J Wegner to a sideboard from Asplund. One of her favourite items is the fishing-net light by Ay Illuminate (above right). 'There was a lot of discussion about it before we decided to put it up,' Hanne says. 'In the evening, when the light is on, the pattern of the net is reflected onto the walls in the dining room. It makes the space feel cosy.'

Hanne is currently working from her home office while setting up her new business. 'I like the silence,' she says. And, once her work is done, she likes nothing better than to get back out to the forest.

GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR







Hallway This rear entrance (left) leads to the kitchen. The bench and cushions were handmade by Hanne
Kitchen The sleek cabinetry, including an island, is by Danish brand Invita (try Nobia)
Stockist details on p144 ➤



A DAY IN THE LIFE

The first thing I do in the morning is make breakfast for the family. It's very important to me that we all sit together. From Monday to Friday we try to eat eggs or *skyr*, a type of Icelandic yoghurt. At the weekend, we often go into Copenhagen for brunch.
There's a small bakery I like to visit called The Bread Station in Charlottenlund station. Everything there, even the flour, is made from scratch. When I walk through the forest in the morning I can smell the bread baking.
I love our garden. I like to witness the changing seasons. Around Easter time you can see all of the small plants starting to spring to life, which is lovely.
Last thing at night, I like to watch the news before I take the dog for her final walk. My husband often comes with me; it's a nice time to talk about the day.

'THE HOUSE HAD SO MUCH SOUL AND BEAUTY ALREADY THAT IT WAS VERY EASY TO ADD THE FINAL TOUCHES'



Bedrooms In the daughter's room (left) a 'Beat' ceiling light by Tom Dixon adds glitz. The simple bedlinen in the main bedroom (above) is from By Nord and the side table is by USM Haller
Stockist details on p144 ED



Living room The homeowners collect architectural models. Chichester Cross, York Minster and Euston Arch are all displayed under bell jars on this Regency console ➤



Treasure hunters

We take a look inside one of London's most individual properties and meet the owners whose passion for collecting has transformed a once decaying mansion into a historical odyssey of the weird, wonderful and macabre

Words **EMMANUELE OCLEPPO**
Photography **VALENTINA SOMMARIVA/ PAOLA MORETTI PRODUCTIONS**



Thousands of eccentric treasures fill London's Malplaquet House, the once dilapidated East End mansion that is home to Tim Knox, former director of the city's Sir John Soane's Museum and current director of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, and his partner, landscape architect and historian Todd Longstaffe-Gowan. Built in 1741, the Grade II-listed Georgian townhouse was a crumbling ruin when the architectural historian and broadcaster Dan Cruickshank suggested that Todd and Tim take a look. The pair's previous flat in north London was full to the rafters with curios, and they instantly fell in love with this property and bought it in May 1998. The mansion had not been lived in for more than a century, the front garden had been overtaken by shops – among them a typewriter repair store and a metal-foil manufacturer – and half the basement had been filled with rubble after WWII. But the pair have made it their own.

In an age that celebrates minimalism, Todd and Tim's exuberantly cluttered four-storey townhouse is a refreshing repository of the sublime and the bizarre, from portraits of lugubrious nuns to classical antiquities. A huge chimneypiece that depicts the homeowners with their miniature smooth-hair Dachshunds, Tiger and Sponge, dominates the living room. This piece (constructed in polychrome plaster) was created by Christopher Hobbs, a master craftsman and set designer, renowned for decorative plasterwork. 'Christopher conceived the design on a napkin whilst having Christmas lunch at the house,' Todd recalls. The piece is allegorical, and records aspects of Tim and Todd's lives and interests. At its centre is a real human skull. It was acquired by Hobbs from builders who found it in the course of their excavations for the present day YMCA on Tottenham Court Road. 'We like to think it's the remains of an unpopular aerobics instructor,' Todd says.

Across the hall in the 'Bird Room' is an enormous 19th-century Indian elephant skull. Paintings of nuns adorn the walls, glowering over a collection of architectural models, among them a small coaching inn crafted in ivory, a cork model of York Minster, and a miniature 19th-century church made entirely of goose feathers.

Most of the paint in this room had worn away when the couple moved in, so they re-created the original colour – a vivid shade of limewash that they refer to as 'arsenical green'. This traditional 18th-century finish provides a soft and distressed background that complements the couple's collection of artwork.

Todd and Tim's fondness for the macabre is evidenced in an upstairs bathroom. Here, the walls are covered with death notices commemorating Victorians who perished in horrible accidents, such as the 650 people who lost their lives as a result of the sinking of the SS Princess Alice in the Thames in 1878.

Today, the pair's collections have outgrown even this grand house (they now have a second property in Cambridge). They considered selling Malplaquet in 2010, but the property proved too unique to part with. 'It had only been on the market for a week when we got cold feet,' Todd says. 'The revitalisation of the house has been a great adventure. Its gentle improvement absorbed us entirely, and has given us years of pleasure and frustration in equal measure.'

In an age that celebrates minimalism, this exuberantly cluttered townhouse is a refreshing repository of the sublime and the bizarre



Portrait Owners Todd Longstaffe-Gowan and Tim Knox, pictured with a marble statue of a Paschal lamb carved in the mid-18th century
Sarcophagus room The key feature in this space is the elaborate chimneybreast created by master craftsman Christopher Hobbs. It depicts the homeowners with their miniature Dachshunds, Tiger and Sponge
Exterior The house's studded door hints at the grandeur of what lies inside ➤



Living room Referred to as the 'Bird Room' by its owners, this space is painted a vivid green shade of limewash. Antique rugs cover the floor and a 19th-century Indian elephant skull sits beside the dining table ➤


CARPUE.
"I CAN'T TELL WHERE MY HEAD IS GONE,
BUT DOCTOR CARPUE CAN;
AS FOR MY TRUNK, IT'S ALL PACKED UP
TO GO BY PICKFORD'S VAN.
HOOD "MARY'S GHOST."



Drawing room 'My favourite memories here are of lying on the large kilim-covered sofas with our miniature Dachschunds. We have very few comfortable chairs in our house,' says Todd ➤





The homeowners' fondness for the macabre is evidenced in an upstairs bathroom. The walls are covered with death notices commemorating Victorians who perished in horrible accidents



Bathroom The homeowners' fixation on religious objects – such as the crucifixes on the wall here – is inspired in part by Tim's Catholic upbringing
Bedroom Decorated with 17th-century wood panelling, this room looks more or less as it did when it was described in a late-18th century auction prospectus ED



Living area The rocking chair is a vintage find (for similar, try Wayfair).The homeowner wrapped the legs of the table (opposite), made from the roots of a tree, in white fabric
Stockist details on p144 ➤



URBAN EDEN

This characterful cottage in the heart of London has all the charm of an idyllic country abode

Words **KERRYN FISCHER**
Photography **ELSA YOUNG/FRANK FEATURES**



Joel Bernstein's home has a serene sense of calm that is at odds with its location: just a short stroll from London's busy Kilburn High Street. The quaint urban cottage is tucked behind a large Victorian townhouse that Joel, a creative director and consultant in the fashion and interiors business (and previously part-owner of Marylebone-based chocolatier and bakery Coco Maya), eventually plans to renovate. The buildings sit within a 1.5-acre garden – a rare find in the heart of the capital. Joel discovered the plot 18 months ago and was instantly attracted to what he calls its 'otherworldliness'.

Buying the property required resolve – a failed sealed bid at auction meant that it took over a year to complete the sale. 'The charm of the place was totally seductive,' he says. 'I felt as though I'd discovered a secret garden and I found that irresistible.'

Dotted with shady footpaths and overhung by mature trees, the garden is a wilderness of moss and ivy that hides two aged conservatories and a collection of decaying sculptures. The estate, as Joel readily admits, will be a lifetime labour for him: 'I'm a naturally impatient person and so I hope that the house and garden will help me overcome this; the pace of life is slower here.'

Inside, the cottage's layout remains much as it was when Joel first viewed it. The main rooms sprawl across one floor, with the bedroom and en-suite situated on a mezzanine level above, accessed via a wrought-iron spiral staircase. 'You could tell that this was a creative space for the previous owners and I didn't want to change that too much,' he says. 'I just cleaned the place up a bit and added my own personal style.'

'I like a subdued palette with lots of textural layers of wood, fabric and collectables,' says Joel. This translates into whitewashed clapperboard walls, a dusky monochrome colour scheme and artisanal touches that hint at his South African heritage (a prevailing influence even though he has lived in the UK for over 35 years). A curated display of ceramics by South African artist Hylton Nel decorates one wall in the dining area, while African, Indian and geometric-print textiles hang from the banister of the mezzanine landing. These additions, combined with the greenery on display throughout, add shots of colour and pattern to this idyllic city hideaway. 'I can't imagine that I will ever leave here,' adds Joel. 'I just want to enjoy the calm of the place and soak up its energy.'

'The charm of the place was totally seductive. I felt as though I'd discovered a secret garden and I found that irresistible'



Living area This double-height space is filled with light. A collection of textiles hangs over the banister on the mezzanine level. Above the drinks table, stocked with crystal glassware, hangs a driftwood mobile from Mexico ➤



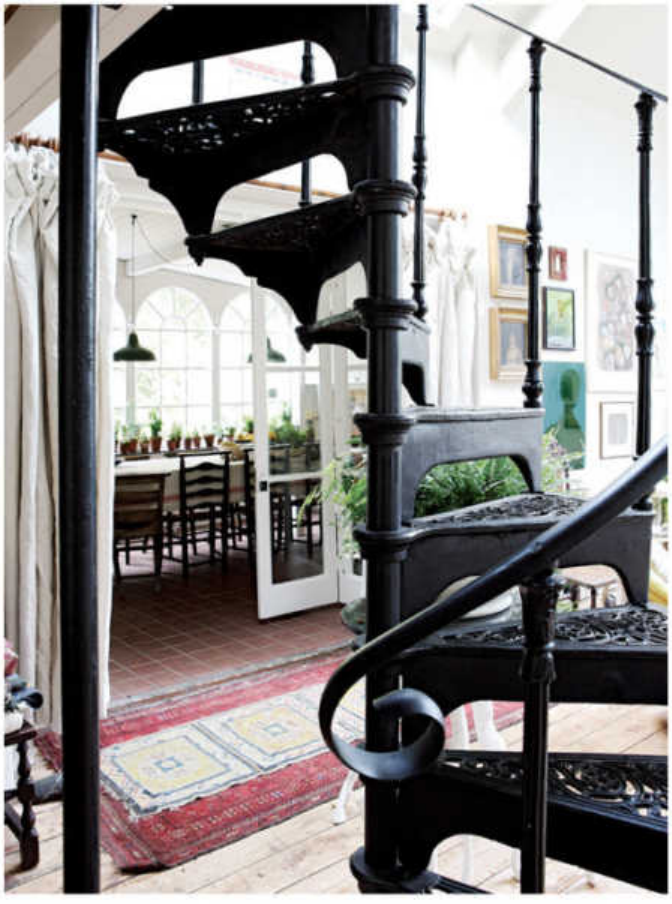
Dining room A simple linen cloth decorates the table and industrial-style pendant lights hang above (try Skinflint for similar), complementing the greenery outside
Stockist details on p144 ➤



‘I like a subdued palette with lots of textural layers of wood, fabric and collectables’







Living area Carbon filament bulbs from Urban Cottage Industries have been strung on black cord to create a statement ceiling light. The homeowner upholstered the chaise longue himself using yellow linen
Details The delicate wrought-iron spiral staircase (above) stands out against the creamy palette of the living area – even the original brick fireplace (right) has been painted white to match the scheme
Stockist details on p144 ➤

'You could tell that this was a creative space for the previous owners. I didn't want to change that too much'









Artisanal touches and greenery from the garden add sunny pops of colour and pattern to this idyllic inner-city hideaway



A DAY IN THE LIFE

First thing in the morning, I make coffee and smoke a cigarette. At the weekends I'll usually cook for friends – we'll have a leisurely meal at the table with the doors opened wide.
My perfect day at home would be spent at my kitchen table looking out at the garden and listening to Classic FM.
I love to potter in the garden during the day and to watch the sun set over it in the evening – the house is partly west-facing and the light here is beautiful.
The most used pieces of furniture in the cottage are my desk and rocking chair, but my most treasured item is a music box that [London-based artist] Raqib Shaw gave me. It was filled with jasmine blossom when I received it. It's such a poetic gift.
My favourite artwork is a painting by South African artist Irma Stern (one of her works was donated to raise money for Nelson Mandela's legal fund in the 1950s).

Bedroom Situated in the eaves, this attic room is light and bright.The bed is a simple raised platform covered in a throw from India. The side table is from Bedell Coram, an antiques shop in Spitalfields, London
Bathroom The patterned tiles and stained glass window were in the cottage when the homeowner moved in (Walls & Floors offer similar tile designs)
Stockist details on p144 ED

loaf





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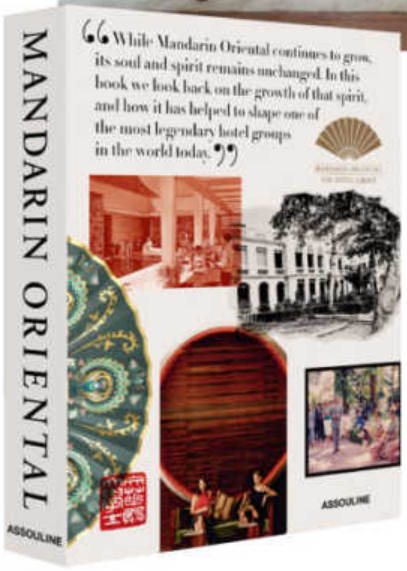
IF YOU VISIT ONE EXHIBITION THIS MONTH...

TATE MODERN HAS JUST OPENED the UK's biggest retrospective of work by Alexander Calder, the 20th-century artist best known for inventing the mobile. 'Performing Sculpture' will display some of his most famous compositions, which range from figurative portraits to abstract pieces inspired by the cosmos. Calder once said: 'When everything goes right, a mobile is a piece of poetry that dances with the joy of life and surprise!' We agree. Until April 3 (tate.org.uk).



PICTURE: CALDER FOUNDATION, NEW YORK 2015/DACS, LONDON





MANDARIN ORIENTAL: A CELEBRATION

Super-glam yet famously discreet global hotel group Mandarin Oriental recently celebrated its 50th birthday with the publication of a suitably gorgeous tribute book (*Mandarin Oriental: The Hotel Group;* Assouline, £115). Here, we talk to the interior designers behind three jewels in the Mandarin Oriental crown (mandarinoriental.com).

MANDARIN ORIENTAL BARCELONA

This is our all-time favourite from the group. Spanish designer Patricia Urquiola tells us about its creation

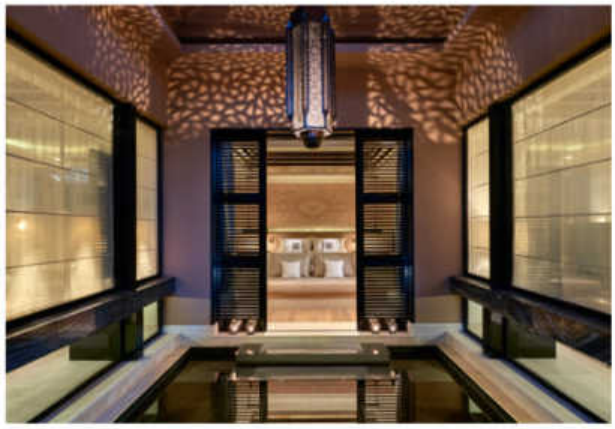
The challenge of designing this hotel lay in uniting the qualities of Mandarin Oriental – its level of service and attention to detail – with the *genius loci* of its position on the Paseo de Gracia, a buzzing city street.

It was important that the hotel was well finished. It has cosy rooms lifted by a fresh, contemporary style, which are equally suitable for business trips and city breaks.

I hope that the rooms make guests feel that they are in a comfort zone. I want them to feel like they are perfectly at home, but also able to be part of Barcelona life.

What will be the legacy of my design? Personally, I hope that this hotel will remain an inclusive place, somewhere in which local people mix with new visitors to the city. Double rooms from £409.





MANDARIN ORIENTAL MARRAKECH
French design duo Gilles & Boissier tell us about the brand's newest addition, which opened in October 2015
We wanted to create a space that heightened the senses. Somewhere you can spend the day getting lost, smelling the roses, and looking up at the Atlas Mountains. **The Moroccan custom of *beldi*, which focuses on the handcrafted, influenced us**, but we have taken traditional patterns and materials and given them a modern twist. Tadelakt plaster is engraved with Berber motifs and a huge tiled marble carpet runs over the floor and walls. **The luxury here is subtle, not ostentatious**. The spa, for example, was designed in the style of a cathedral – it's impressive but paradoxically very intimate. Each treatment room is framed with a selection of plants, and outside is a terrace where a magical century-old olive tree continues to grow. Suites from £530.



MANDARIN ORIENTAL MILAN
Italian designer and architect Antonio Citterio discusses the fashion capital's outpost, opened in September 2015
The group's hotels are all part of the same family, but as well as reflecting the brand's visual richness we were briefed to offer guests a very Milanese experience. **We renovated four historic buildings on the same street**: the challenge was to bring together their different pasts. We gave the interiors a uniquely Milanese essence, inspired by 20th-century architects such as Giò Ponti and Asnago and Vender. Decorative materials and intense colours help to give every room its own character. **The Mandarin Bar is the beating heart of the hotel**. It is my favourite area, along with the spa, which is vast but quiet. I hope the spaces I have designed feel welcoming. When guests arrive, I want them to feel immediately that their journey has ended. Double rooms from £545.

WORDS: CHARLOTTE BROOK. PICTURES: GEORGE APOSTOLIDIS, PERE PRATDESABA



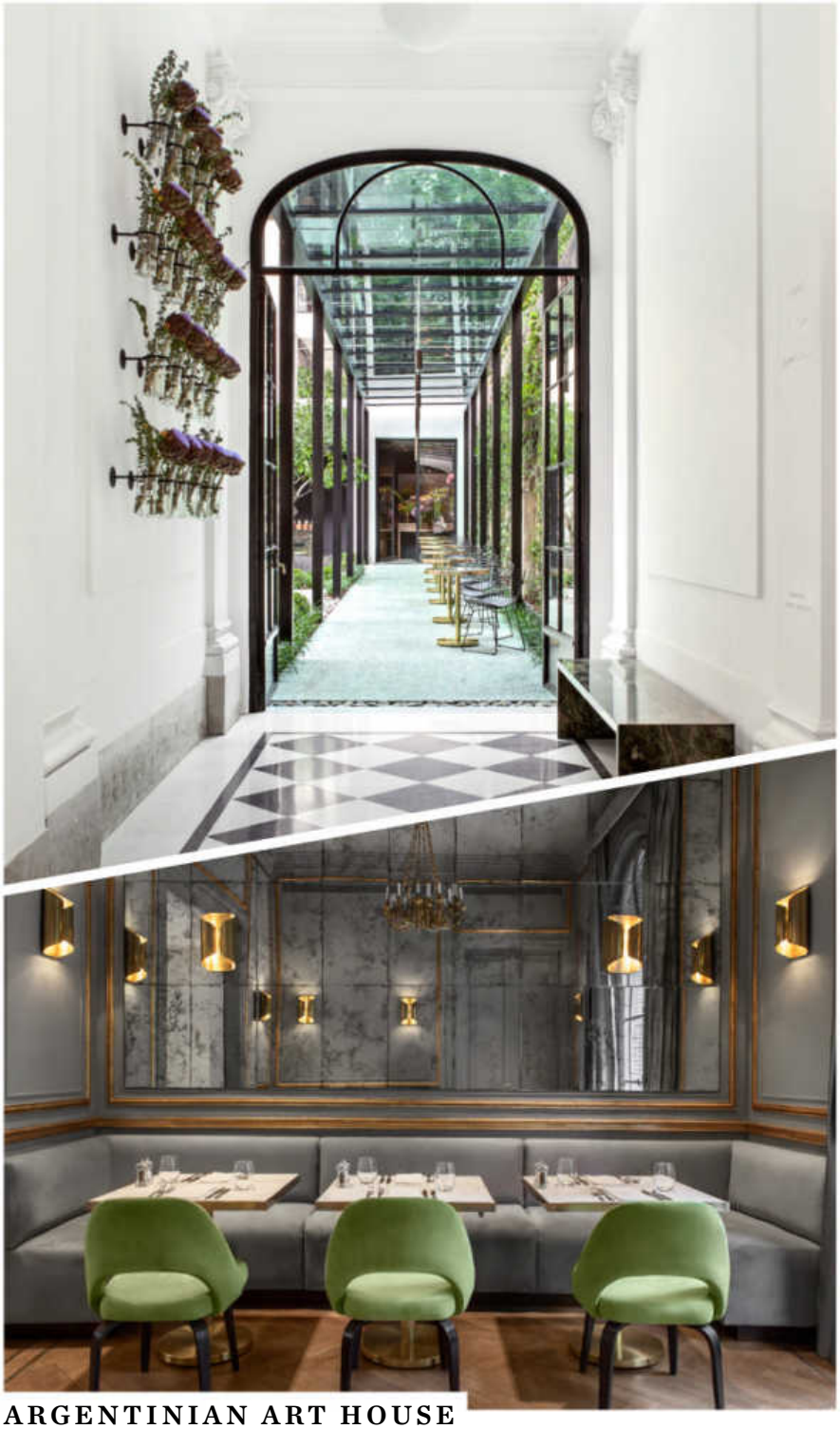
CULTURAL HOTSPOT BARCELONA

This cosmopolitan Catalonian city, home to our favourite Mandarin Oriental hotel (left), continues to evolve and appeal. Here's what to ensure you don't miss when you visit

What to see To celebrate its 40th anniversary, the Fondacion Joan Miró (top) is putting on a special events programme running until June. The best bit is a re-hang of the entire permanent collection of the 20th-century abstract and surrealist painter and ceramicist's works (miriobcn.org). Elsewhere in the city, don't miss the year-old Museu del Disseny, housed in a vast Brutalist building. Our pick is the 'Dressing the Body: Silhouettes and Fashion' exhibit, and the product design displays (museudeldisseny.cat).

Where to stay Check into father-and-daughter-run new hotel Margot House (above), named after the fashion world's current muse, Ms Tenenbaum of the Wes Anderson film. Interiors are Japanese-inspired and minimal, finishes are wood and polished concrete, furniture is locally made and details include wool, linen and yak blankets by Teixidors. There's a very cool communal dining vibe in the coffee shop, too (double rooms from £136; margothouse.es).

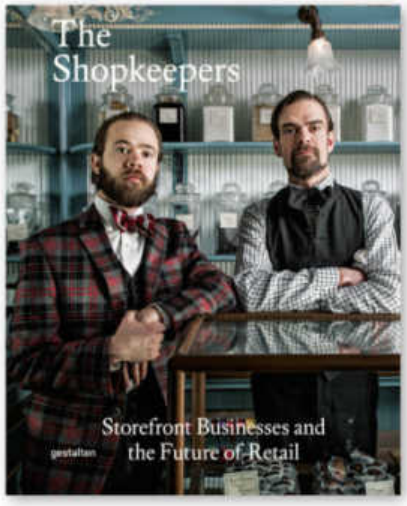
Where to dine Stop for coffee and refreshment in Disfrutar, a restaurant whose mosaic effect mimics a deconstructed mural by Miró (disfrutarbarcelona.com).



ARGENTINIAN ART HOUSE

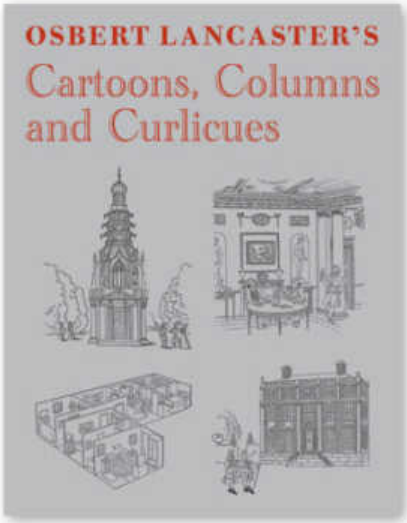
A few years ago, film director Lupe Garcia bought a tired-looking 1920s property in the elegant Palermo Chico district of Buenos Aires. With the help of architectural duo KallosTurin she's created Casa Cavia, a 'house of culture' fashioned like a film set: it's a place to learn, dine and shop.

Garcia's mother's publishing company, Ampersand, takes up the top floor and devises author-inspired lunches, held in the ground-floor restaurant; the in-house florist is by trade a costume designer whose floral displays are both witty and lush; and there's a perfumery by Fueguia 1833 on the ground floor. The bar is the perfect place to sit and drink in the design details – from the newly installed terrazzo floors to the original gilded mouldings on the ceilings (casacavia.com).



PURCHASING POWER

No confirmation email compares to the tinkle of a till or cheery greeting from the owner of a real shop. New book 'The Shopkeepers' (Gestalten, £40) surveys small stores – and the personalities behind them – that are going from strength to strength, such as Cire Trudon's chic Parisian boutique.



CARTOON KING

Osbert Lancaster's Cartoons, Columns and Curlicues (Pimpernel Press, £40) is a boxed set of books featuring drawings by the British humourist and illustrator. Our favourite volume is 'Homes Sweet Homes', in which Lancaster observes the evolving rooms of Britain. Styles featured include 'Norman', 'Scottish Baronial', 'Luxury Flat' and 'Ordinary Cottage'; modern readers may find themselves spotting familiar details amid the parodies.

RURAL BRITISH RETREATS

Don't forget the charms of home-grown holidays when booking your next break. These wild and picturesque destinations around the British Isles have ELLE Decoration's seal of approval



SUFFOLK Wilderness Reserve is a 4,500 acre private estate of rolling plains near the beautiful Suffolk coast, and has a handful of sophisticated serviced properties available to rent. The latest addition is the six-bedroom Farmhouse (above): painted an excellent shade of Suffolk Pink on the exterior, inside it boasts an astonishing six bathrooms, three with steel bathtubs, quirky furniture, underfloor heating and a triple-height hall. Take a stroll through the pleasure gardens, where there's an outdoor pool and tennis court. Sleeps 12, £695 per night (wildernessreserve.com).



LAKE WINDERMERE Beloved British brand and pioneer of rose-printed wallpaper Laura Ashley has opened its second hotel, The Belsfield, on the shores of Cumbria's largest tarn. And it is delightful! The Victorian building has been entirely refurbished – we love the elegant azure restaurant, but for a fix of vintage florals, head to the drawing room to take tea and admire the lake vista. There are six acres of landscaped gardens to explore and of the 62 bedrooms, 25 offer views across Lake Windermere. Double rooms from £150 (lauraashleyhotels.com).



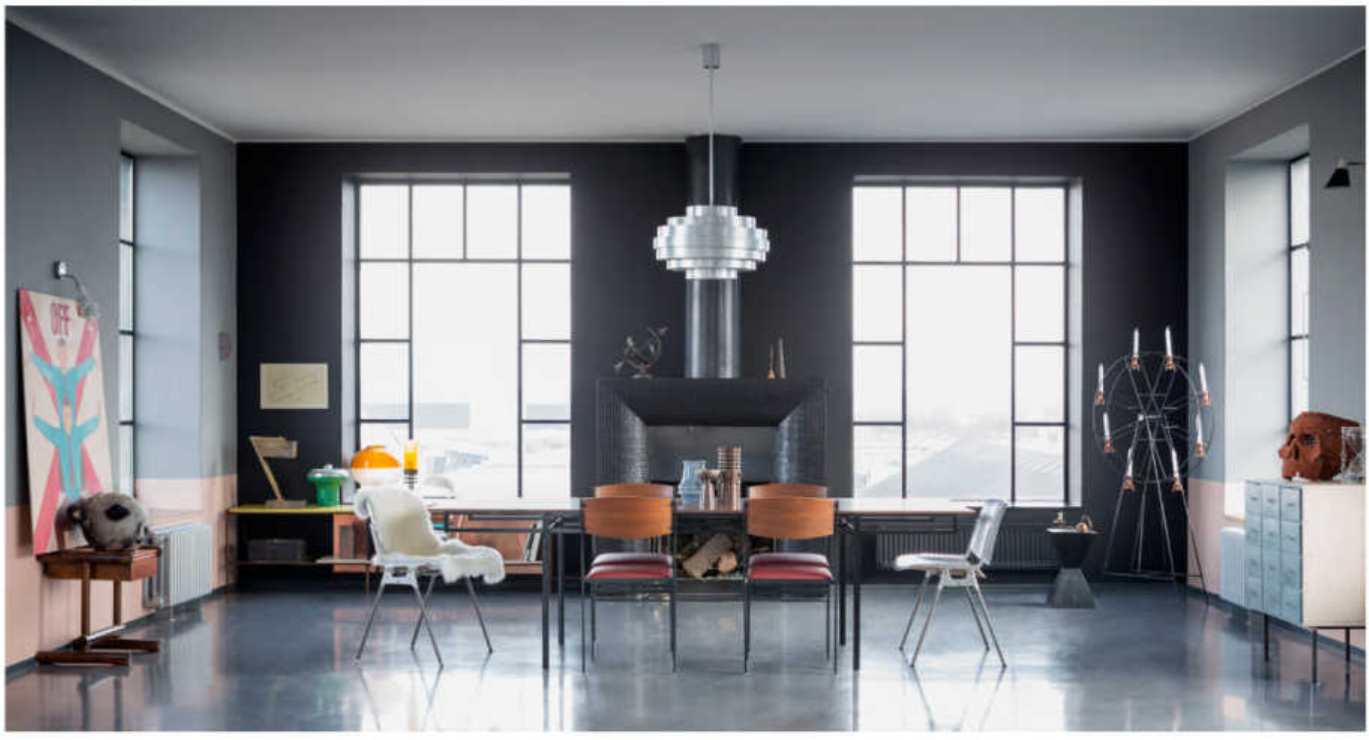
CUMBRIA Beatrix Potter's Lake District home in the village of Coniston is now available to rent. The charming Yew Tree Farm is a picturesque 17th-century white cottage that, despite its literary legacy, remains a working farm – if you like you can venture out in the morning and collect your own eggs from the hens for breakfast. Inside, expect dark wood-panelled corridors, fringed vintage lamps, pieces of the author's own antique furniture (including the dining table), and to be woken by the pleasing sound of Herdwick sheep bleating. Sleeps six, from £587 for a week in January (heartofthelakes.co.uk).



PEAK DISTRICT A once-derelict Grade II-listed mansion near Derby has been transformed by British design brand Plum & Ashby into a modern hotel. The Kedleston Country House is a chic-yet-cosy venue: all five bedrooms have grand Georgian windows that are dressed with canine-print curtains made from Plum & Ashby's 'All the Breeds' fabric; the snug and the hidden study house worn leather armchairs and roaring fires; and there are views of the majestic Peak District hills outside. Book in to the orangery or the dining room to sample delicious seasonal fare. Double rooms from £150 (thekedleston.co.uk).

WORDS: CHARLOTTE BROOK. PICTURES: CAMERON MAYNARD, GILES CHRISTOPHER

Address book



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Wireworks (wireworks.co.uk)
Wonderland (madeinwonderland.dk)
Y **Yastik by Rifat Özbek** (yastikbyrifatozbek.com)

PICTURE: BEPPE BRANCATO/LIVING INSIDE

HOME SWEET HOME

Create your dream living space with our inspiring collection



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British lighting manufacturer Factorylux is offering Elle Decoration readers 10% off bespoke lighting until 1 March 2016. Design a pendant light or simple plug and light set using the online configurators. Your design is made in the UK, tested and certified to BS EN 60598, and dispatched for next day delivery. Shop online at **www.urbancottageindustries.com/factorylux**. Use code ElleDec15 in your basket.



LOVE YOUR HOME

Love Your Home set out in 2008 to deliver beautifully designed and well-made sofas and beds to clients at reasonable prices. All their furniture is designed and made in-house using high quality sustainable beechwood frames and the promise of quality is reinforced with a 10 year guarantee. Like their clients, LYH love design and are absolutely passionate about the living environment, a passion that is evident in every piece offered. However, they also believe that integral to design are practicality, usability and durability. Love Your Home regularly updates their core collection, which can be seen online at **www.love-your-home.co.uk** or in person at their showroom, an idyllic converted barn located 45 minutes from London.
Reader offer, 15% off (cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer) for all new orders placed by December 31st. Use promo code for online purchases: EDOFFER and quote ED for inshore and telephone orders 01483 410 007.



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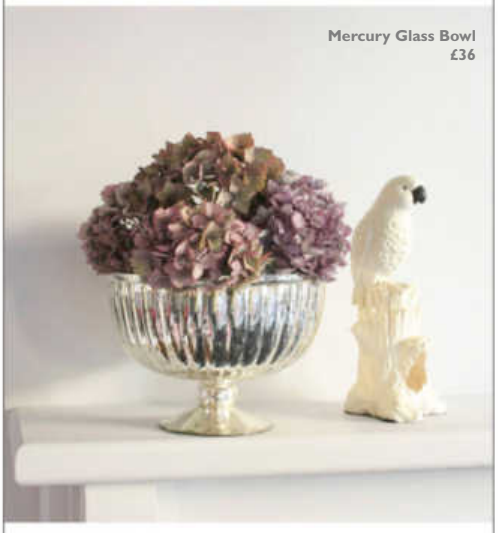


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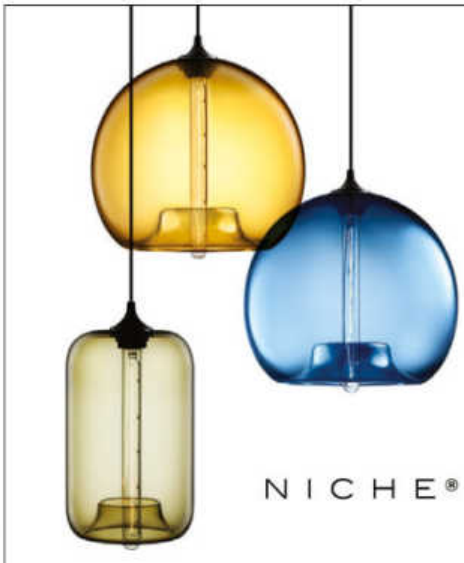
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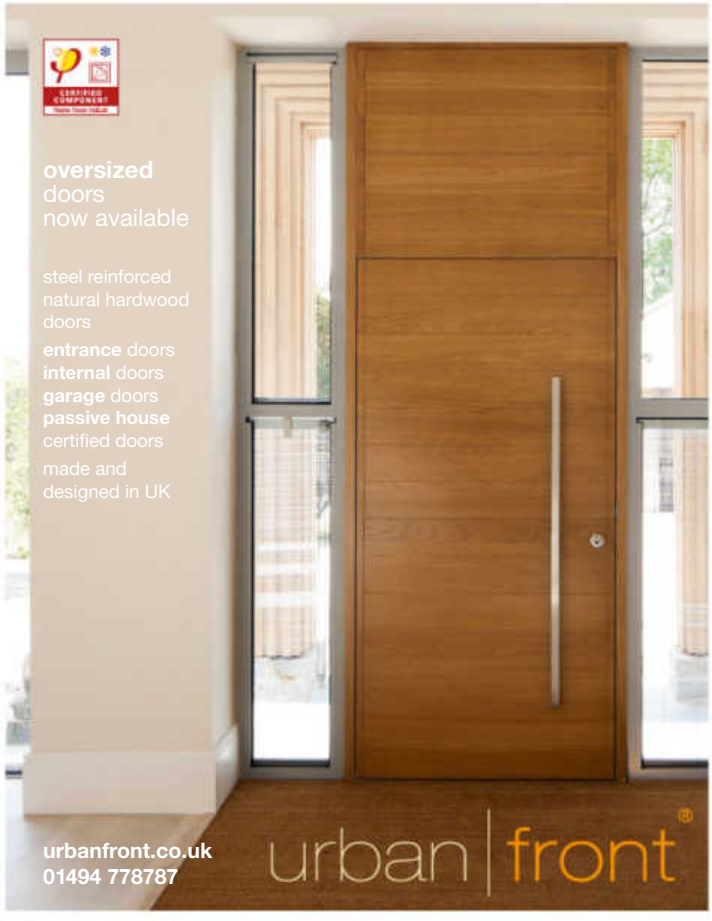
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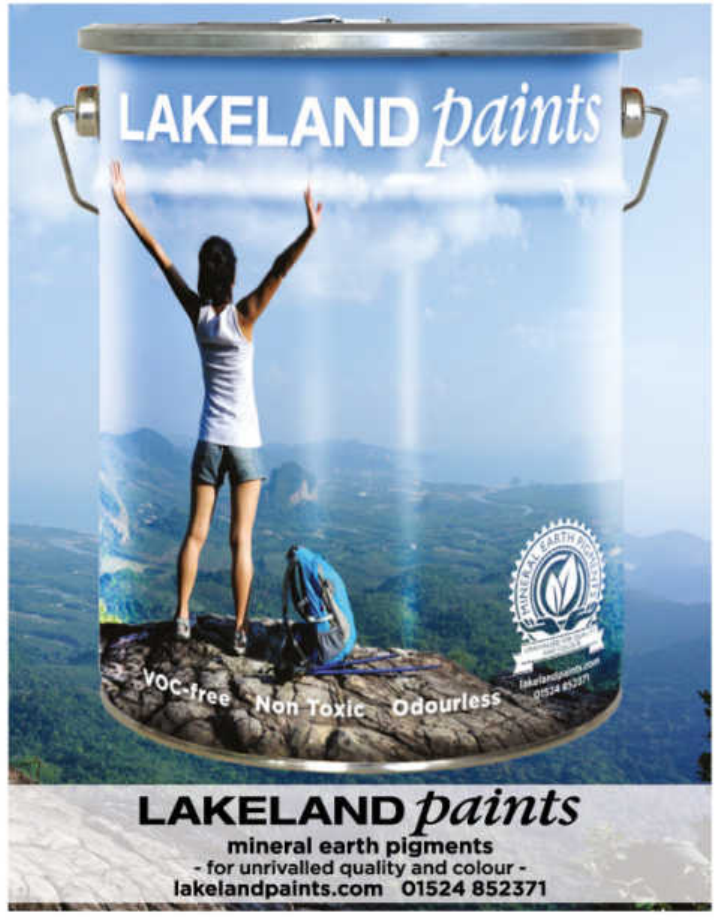

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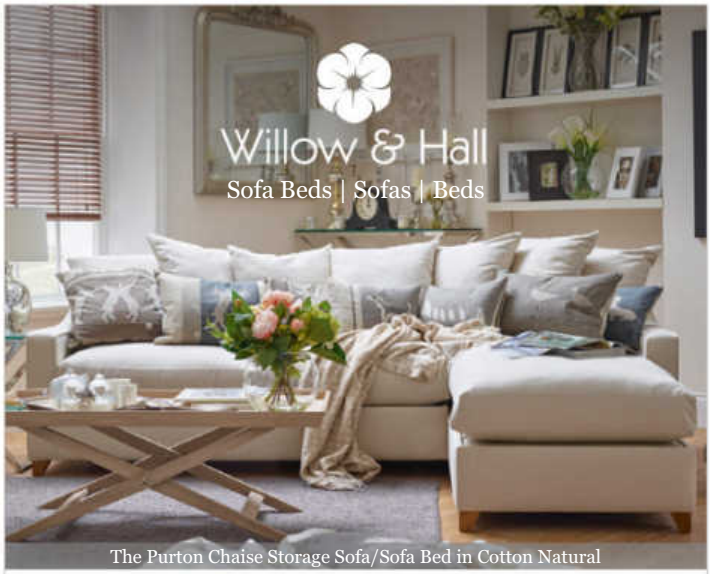
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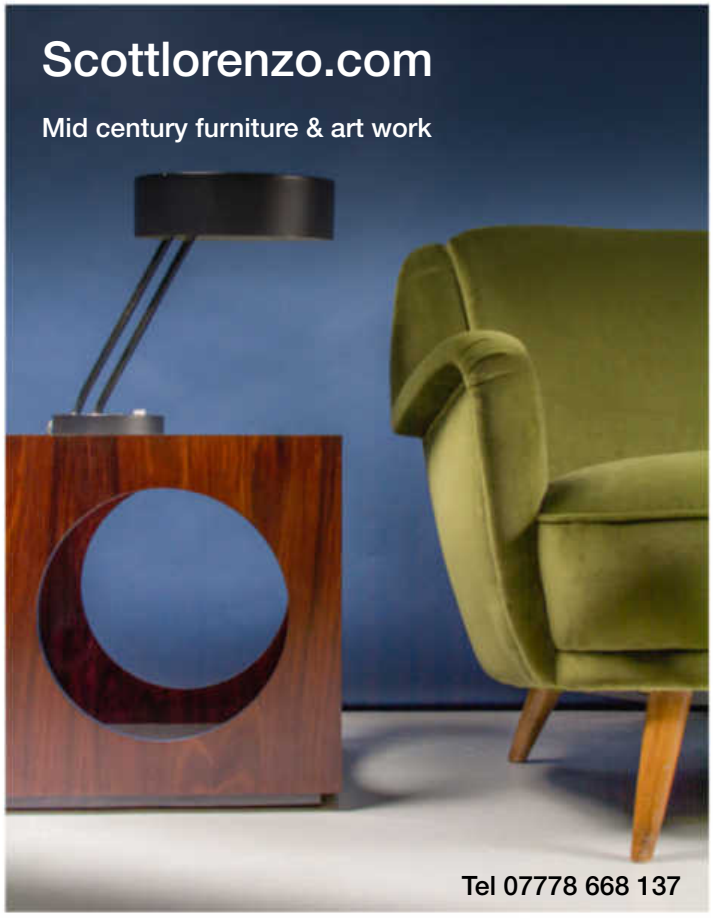
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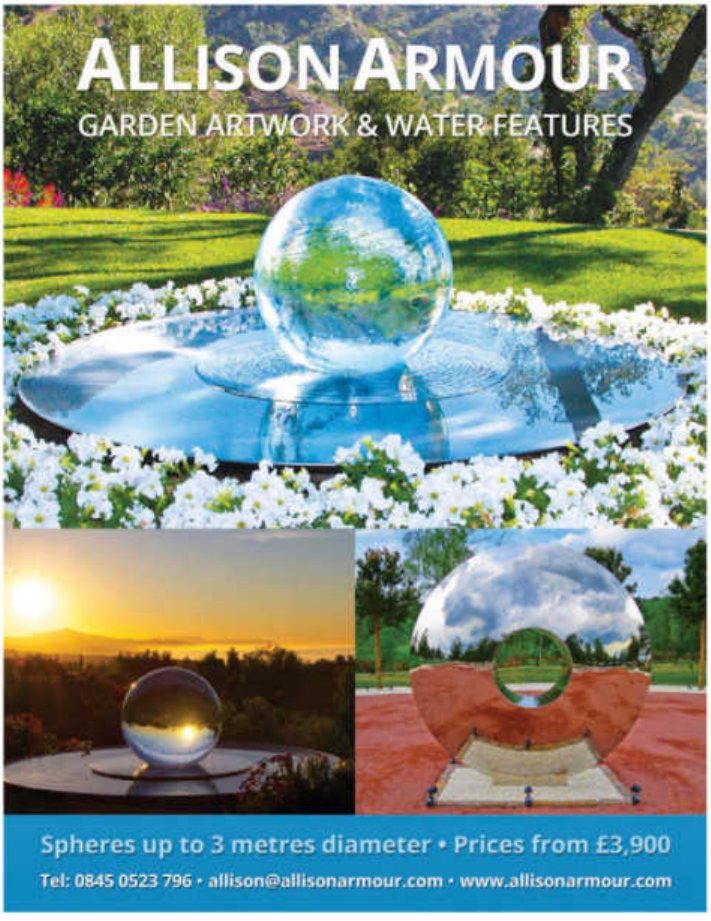


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DESIGN DECODED *The making of a modern classic*

19. 'Ultima Thule' glassware by Tapio Wirkkala for Iittala

Words **JAMES WILLIAMS**

The 'Ultima Thule' collection's sculptural beauty was inspired by the dripping icicles that decorate the frosty landscape of Lapland – one of designer Tapio Wirkkala's favourite places. Wirkkala (1915–1985) was Finland's most prolific creative. He wasn't just a master glassmaker, but also a sculptor, graphic designer and craftsman, collaborating with some of the world's most iconic brands. He saw beauty in natural materials and organic forms: 'You should never be violent with a material,' he once said. 'The designer should aim to be in harmony with it.'

Nothing demonstrates Wirkkala's love of materials more wonderfully than his sculptural work with glass. Wirkkala's affinity with glass first came to light in 1946, when he entered a competition for Finnish company Iittala, creating the 'Kattarelli' hand-blown vase (below), which had a flared rim similar to the shape of a Calla lily. Iittala hired him instantly and, between the 1940s and 1980s, Wirkkala designed more than 400 pieces for the brand. The 'Ultima Thule' collection, released in 1968, is perhaps his most famous work. He spent thousands of hours perfecting a detailed graphite mould that would give the glassware its icy aesthetic. In 1970, the Finlandia Vodka Company commissioned Wirkkala to create a bottle using the same design. It was this collaboration that put the designer on the world map, but many of Wirkkala's other pieces also show a similar respect for the beauty of nature, from the 'Bolle' bottles (1966–67) with their circular smoothness to the 'Leaf-Form' wooden platters' (1951) clever use of natural grain. Today, you can see Wirkkala's works on display in collections at New York's MOMA and London's V&A – or you could simply take a piece home. From £19 for a pair of cordial glasses (iittala.com). ED



THE ICE KING
Finnish designer Tapio Wirkkala's (left) 'Ultima Thule' glassware collection is an enduring classic (below, from left: 'On The Rocks' glass, £25 for a pair; sparkling wine glass, £31 for a pair; pitcher £91).





NATURAL TALENT
The 'Kattarelli' vase (above), with its Calla lily-like flared rim, was Wirkkala's entry into a design competition for Iittala in 1946. He won and was instantly hired by the brand.

THE SPIRIT OF SUCCESS
Finnish vodka brand Finlandia used Wirkkala's bottle design, based on the 'Ultima Thule' range, from 1970 up until 2001.





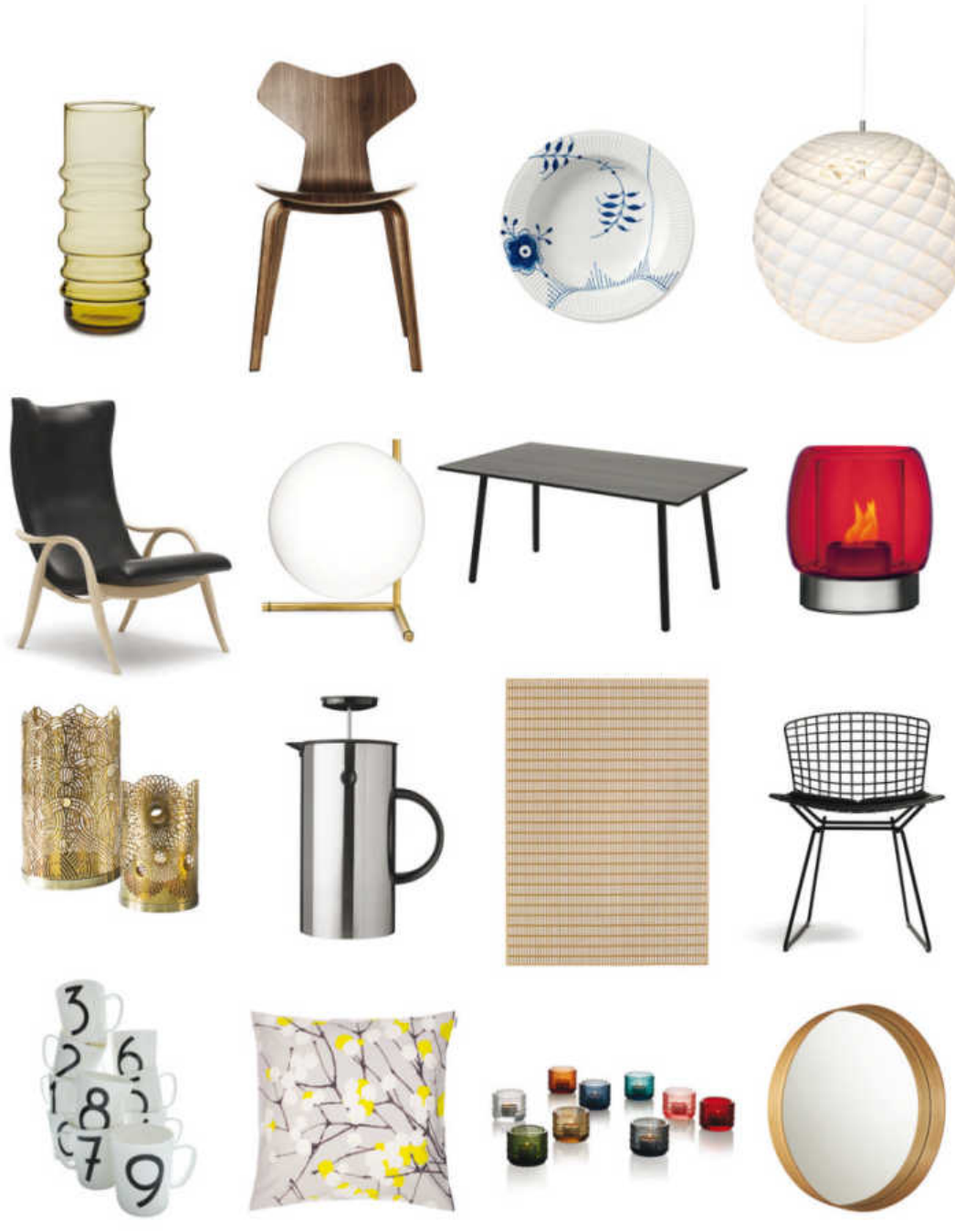
COOL INSPIRATION
The beautifully delicate form of melting icicles inspired the design.

FIRST-CLASS GLASSWARE
On its first ever transatlantic flight to New York in the 1960s, Finnish airline Fin Air used 'Ultima Thule' glasses to serve drinks to its first-class customers.



PICTURE: ALAMY

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